

OFFICIAL REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

In the Matter of: _____ Case No.: 03-CA-295810
STARBUCKS CORPORATION,
Respondent,
And
WORKERS UNITED,
Charging Party.

Place: Buffalo, New York
Dates: April 20, 2023
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Charging Party. :

-----:

The above-entitled matter came on for hearing pursuant to notice, before ALJ ROBERT RINGLER, Administrative Law Judge, at the National Labor Relations Board, Region 3, 130 S Elmwood Avenue Suite 630 Buffalo, New York 14202-2465, on Thursday, April 20th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

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I N D E X

WITNESS	DIRECT	CROSS	REDIRECT	RECROSS	VOIR DIRE
Meghan Gillen	705	748	767	774	724
Rachel Cohen	778	809	819	--	798
William Westlake	826	--	--	--	838, 846, 872, 889 893

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2	EXHIBITS	IDENTIFIED	RECEIVED
3	General Counsel's		
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5	GC-42	726	--
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7	GC-44	784	785
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EXHIBITS	IDENTIFIED	RECEIVED
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General Counsel's

GC-66

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906

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Time Noted: 8:57 a.m.)

JUDGE RINGLER: Yeah. I believe if we are back on the record. So counsel for the General Counsel has a concern. I -- I wouldn't call it concern, right? Comment regarding subpoena production. So what do you got?

MR. GOODE: Yeah, just -- I guess just some information, I'm just trying to get some information. So we're trying to first understand, what we've received from what we can tell two productions. I think approximately 950 documents, Judge. As I understand it, in Buffalo 1 there were eight productions, 2,600 documents.

So we're trying to understand with that context, how much has been provided, what's left to be provided, when it'll be provided, you know, that type of stuff. Because I think what's happening here is we are getting close to finishing our case. I think I mentioned yesterday, we could be done earlier in the week, next week than expected. So -- and again, it takes us a couple of days to be able to actually access the documents.

JUDGE RINGLER: Sure.

MR. GOODE: So we'd like to know --

JUDGE RINGLER: Sure.

MR. GOODE: What's left?

JUDGE RINGLER: Where you're at.

1 MR. GOODE: What's coming?

2 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. So where are we at?

3 MR. BALSAM: We fully expect to complete our
4 production by tomorrow. As, sorry, Friday, tomorrow intended.
5 I'm not sure the size of the production, why that matters.
6 This case is obviously smaller and more targeted than was.
7 That's probably the reason for the difference in size but I
8 understand that in terms of page number total is going to be --
9 where are we at?

10 MS. DUPLCHAIN: So far?

11 MR. BALSAM: Yeah.

12 MS. DUPLCHAIN: Give me one second.

13 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

14 MR. BALSAM: But regardless, regardless, we will have
15 to our production tomorrow.

16 JUDGE RINGLER: All right.

17 MR. BALSAM: And if there's any specific concerns
18 after the counsel for the General Counsel has reviewed our
19 production, we're happy to deal with when we confer with them
20 if there's anything from our perspective we've conducted in
21 good faith search of all documents, responsive and compliance
22 with your order, and that's our progress.

23 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

24 MR. GOODE: Okay. But we're also wondering about a
25 privilege log, Your Honor. I -- I had a chance to briefly look

1 for some documents. I saw some privilege markings. So we need
2 to know, you know, our subpoena required a privilege log.
3 That's the process. We need to -- we need that privilege log,
4 while we're going through the documents.

5 MR. BALSAM: So two things on that. One we will
6 produce a privilege log tomorrow.

7 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

8 MR. BALSAM: I will also note that oftentimes you may
9 see documents that say ACP on them does not mean it's
10 privileged, but --

11 MR. GOODE: There's one I -- one particular, I'm
12 thinking of a section of it was marked out, said it's
13 privileged over time.

14 MR. BALSAM: Okay. Yeah, you will have the privilege
15 log tomorrow.

16 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Okay. Good. So we covered
17 that as well.

18 MR. GOODE: And we're wondering if -- if an index is
19 being provided because --

20 MR. BALSAM: No, we, we don't.

21 MR. GOODE: Well, we -- we're getting just a dump of
22 documents, number one. There was an index provided in Buffalo
23 1 -- I think two indexes, if I'm not mistaken. We have no
24 indication what's been produced, what hasn't been produced,
25 what's left to be produced. It's just a bunch of documents

1 that were dumped. Quite frankly, I don't know how Respondent
2 knows what it has provided, what it hasn't provided and what's
3 left to be provided without some sort of index. So, yes, you
4 know, that's -- that's something that we request.

5 MR. BALSAM: Judge, we have no obligation to produce
6 an index. We're not going to produce an index. We did that in
7 Buffalo 1, because that's a professional courtesy. We're not
8 inclined to do that again. There's no reason to, no obligation
9 to produce an index. So we're not going to.

10 MR. GOODE: So that leads me to my next point, Judge.
11 In -- in Respondent's petition to revoke, which you denied in
12 their entire Respondent said it would conduct a -- I think what
13 the -- the term was system level approach. That's that. Or
14 they would -- they would check for documents at the system
15 level without any explanation of what that means.

16 So how -- we as the General Counsel, we don't know
17 whether documents are what -- what the -- the -- the universe
18 of the search is. What the expansive universe is. Are they
19 searching for all relevant documents? Are they searching at a
20 particular level, we don't know. Well, so without that.

21 JUDGE RINGLER: I understand that. Maybe what makes
22 more sense, at least from my perspective, is once you get a
23 chance to look at what they've produced in its entirety and you
24 understand what's there, and you either say, okay, I'm
25 satisfied, I have everything, or Oh boy, I think these are, you

1 know, disciplinary documents.

2 Maybe they keep at the individual stores and maybe
3 that wasn't accomplished by the quote unquote system search or
4 whatever, then you could certainly raise that at that time. I
5 think it might make more sense for you to complete looking at
6 these things first. Now, in terms of the production, I -- I
7 understand you're getting it Friday morning, which gives us
8 that pocket over the weekend for the GC to look at these things
9 on Saturday and Sunday.

10 If that proves onerous and you need to maybe break
11 early on Monday, you -- if you need additional time as
12 indicated, I'll be flexible on that. You know, just keep me in
13 the loop in terms of what you're -- what you're looking for and
14 we'll make sure that, well before you rest, that you could say
15 to me, you know, I've looked at these documents at this point,
16 but I think two full days to do it on Saturday and Sunday would
17 probably accomplish most of that. But if there's extra time
18 that's needed on Monday, you know, I could be flexible with
19 that as well.

20 MR. GOODE: And -- and just for the record to be
21 clear, there's -- there's Respondent's not going to be required
22 to give us an index, Judge?

23 JUDGE RINGLER: You know, I'll give that -- I'll give
24 that some thought. Do you want to give me a quick -- quick
25 letter brief on why you feel you're entitled to an index? And

1 do you want to give me a quick letter brief on why you feel
2 that you're not entitled -- that you're not obligated to
3 provide it?

4 MR. GOODE: Are we going to receive it, the benefit
5 of their brief before we get to submit our response?

6 JUDGE RINGLER: Can you give me something by the --
7 by the end of the day and then when you make your production
8 you could, you know, give us -- give us a reply?

9 MR. GOODE: We can try, Your Honor, I -- I would note
10 that our -- our subpoena asked for the documents to be provided
11 with -- with respect to the specific request for it to be I
12 don't -- I don't know, I don't have the specific language
13 offhand, but we ask that the document production being turned
14 over and so that we can tell which paragraphs of the subpoena
15 it's responsive to.

16 We -- we don't know that just by looking at a
17 humongous, you know, 949 documents, all in one in -- in one --
18 yeah. One dump, this case two dumps. So it would go to that
19 point, Your Honor. I -- I can ask that somebody do something
20 for you.

21 JUDGE RINGLER: I'd appreciate that. Okay. All
22 right. You know, that's the -- that's unfortunately the rub
23 with this, the more you ask for and the more you receive,
24 obviously the more complicated it's to go through these things.

25 MR. GOODE: Well, yeah, and I'm not -- I don't -- I

1 don't dispute that, Judge.

2 JUDGE RINGLER: Yeah. Okay. All right, but please
3 provide something to me on that and then they can reply to that
4 and then we'll, we'll take it from there. All right. So who
5 do we have for our first witness of the day?

6 MS. SNELLING: We have Megan Gillen.

7 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

8 MS. SNELLING: I'll go grab her for you?

9 JUDGE RINGLER: Yes. Yes. That sounds great. Go
10 off for just a second while she goes to get Megan Gillen.
11 (Brief recess at 9:04 a.m./Reconvened at 9:05 a.m.)

12 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Let's go back on the record
13 once you're all squared away there. I don't know if you have a
14 bottle of water or something, you're welcome to have it on the
15 stand with you.

16 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

17 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Good. So I'm Judge Ringler.
18 Nice to make your acquaintance again, right? Could you help me
19 with the door this morning when I have my two cups of coffee?
20 So thank you for that.

21 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

22 JUDGE RINGLER: If you could spell your name for the
23 record first and last please.

24 THE WITNESS: Yeah, my first name is Megan, M-E-G-A-
25 N, and my last name is Gillen, G-I-L-L-E-N.

1 JUDGE RINGLER: Perfect. And please raise your right
2 hand.

3 Whereupon,

4 MEGAN GILLEN,
5 was called as a witness having been previously duly sworn, was
6 examined and testified as follows:

7 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. And counsel, what complaint
8 paragraphs is Ms. Gillen testifying about?

9 MS. SNELLING: Yes. So complete Paragraph 7A and
10 then 9J, and for 9J, Your Honor, she'll be touching upon Sam
11 Amato's discharge and also Todd Tiana Kiki's discharge.

12 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. And hold on one moment. Let
13 me just catch up. Just jot down on the complaint. Just take a
14 quick look. So the alleged three strikes disciplinary policy,
15 we're going to get into that. And --

16 MS. SNELLING: Actually, Your Honor, there might be
17 one more thing. Hold on one second.

18 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Okay.

19 MS. SNELLING: I just want to -- okay. Okay. And
20 then, Your Honor, she's going to provide a little bit of I
21 guess context to 9(e) as well. It -- it's going to be kind of
22 attenuated, but it'll still be, you know, slightly relevant and
23 com -- and some comparable information for that paragraph.

24 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Involving Jazz Brisk?

25 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

1 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. Okay. Thank you. And
2 whenever you're ready, look to it.

3 MS. SNELLING: Great. Thank you, Your Honor.

4 JUDGE RINGLER: You're welcome.

5 DIRECT EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. SNELLING:

7 Q. Okay. Good morning, Megan

8 A. Good morning.

9 Q. How are you?

10 A. I'm well. How are you?

11 Q. Good. Megan, what are your pronouns?

12 A. She, her.

13 Q. Okay. And where do you currently work?

14 A. I currently work for Starbucks.

15 Q. Okay. When did you start working for Starbucks?

16 A. The original start date was August 28th, 2017.

17 Q. Okay. And did you work for Starbucks continuously from
18 August of 2017 to now?

19 A. No, I had left originally, mid-January 2023 and restarted
20 this month, April of 2023.

21 Q. Okay. And when did you restart working for Starbucks this
22 month?

23 A. I believe it was April 6th.

24 Q. Okay. So we'll focus on that first time frame of August
25 of 2017 to January of 2023. What store did you work at while

1 employed by Starbucks at that time?

2 A. I was working at three different locations in the San
3 Jose, California area from August of 2017 to September of 2019,
4 and then September of 2019 to January of 2023, I worked at the
5 Sheridan and North Bailey location in Buffalo, New York.

6 Q. Great, and what position did you hold when you worked from
7 -- for Starbucks from August of 2017 to January, 2023?

8 A. I was a shift supervisor.

9 Q. Okay. And you were shift supervisor at the day of hire?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Okay. And during that time frame, how many hours a week
12 did you typically work?

13 A. To start off with, I worked close to 40 hours a week, and
14 then by January, 2023 I worked about 18 to 20 hours a week.

15 Q. Okay. And what days did you typically work in that first
16 time frame?

17 A. I was always an opener on Tuesdays and Sundays and then
18 either opens or mids any other point of the week.

19 Q. Okay -- okay, now focusing on you coming back to Starbucks
20 this month, how many hours a week do you typically work?

21 A. I work over 30 hours a week.

22 Q. Okay. And what position do you hold?

23 A. Just a barista.

24 Q. Okay. And what days do you typically work?

25 A. I typically work Monday through Thursday and I work on

1 Sundays as well.

2 Q. Okay. And what shift do you typically work?

3 A. I typically work the opening shift or the mid shift on
4 Wednesdays.

5 Q. And why did you take a brief break from Starbucks?

6 A. I took a brief break from Starbucks because I had an
7 opportunity with another company, decided it was not for me and
8 wanted to come back to Starbucks.

9 Q. Okay. And why did you come back as a barista?

10 A. Came back as a barista, mainly because the store that I
11 wanted to work at, which was the original store that I had
12 worked at in Buffalo area, which was Sheridan in North Bailey,
13 didn't have room for me as a shift supervisor. And instead of
14 going to the different location as a shift supervisor, I wanted
15 to go back to my store. So I like to think of it as a barista.

16 Q. Okay. Are you familiar with the Union Workers United?

17 A. Yes, I am.

18 Q. Okay. When did you become familiar with them?

19 A. I became familiar with Workers United, probably sometime
20 September, 2021.

21 Q. Okay. And how did you become familiar with Workers
22 United?

23 A. I became familiar with Workers United because there was
24 some rumors going around, you know, some people wanting to
25 unionize. And when a formal letter was sent that's when people

1 really started talking about the Union in the stores.

2 Q. Okay. And what letter are you referring to?

3 A. There was a letter, some baristas and shift supervisors in
4 the Buffalo market, had gotten together and written to
5 Starbucks corporate as a whole about their wanting to use their
6 rights to form a Union for the stores. I believe it was
7 signed, I don't know how many people signed it, but I know
8 there was a few people at my store who did.

9 Q. Okay. Did you sign the letter?

10 A. I did not.

11 Q. Okay. And so did your store Sheridan and Bailey ever
12 unionized?

13 A. We did, we ended up unionizing, I want to say it was
14 sometime between February and March of 2022.

15 Q. Okay. And prior to unionizing, did your store
16 specifically publicly express that its intent to unionize?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. And how?

19 A. So we had baristas who were wearing Union like pins,
20 merchandise. We would talk about it with each other people who
21 had questions about it. There were, what I would term Union
22 leaders in the store who were very active. Some of them were
23 the original people who signed the letter, Starbucks corporate.
24 So our store was very active and wanted to Union.

25 Q. And when you say Union leaders within your store, who are

1 you thinking of?

2 A. The three people who come to mind, Samuel Amato, Rachel
3 Cohen and Daniel Rojas.

4 Q. Okay. And this store specific letter that was sent or
5 maybe you didn't mention that, but did your store specifically
6 send a letter to corporate?

7 A. I honestly don't know. Probably.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. But I'm unsure.

10 Q. Okay. I know you mentioned people would wear pins at your
11 store, did you wear pins while working?

12 A. I did not.

13 Q. Okay. Did you wear Union pins working?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay. And have you -- is there any other way that you
16 could have shown your Union support?

17 A. There were t-shirts that were made. There were strikes
18 that had happened after we unionized, so we supported it that
19 way.

20 MR. BALSAM: Objection. This witness is testifying
21 about collective group of individuals, the questions about
22 anything that she personally did by first using the term we --

23 JUDGE RINGLER: Sustained.

24 MR. BALSAM: I move to strike.

25 JUDGE RINGLER: Sustained.

1 MS. SNELLING: Okay.

2 BY MS. SNELLING:

3 Q. So what --

4 A. what did I --

5 Q. What did you do to support the Union?

6 A. So to support the Union I specifically, anybody who asked
7 questions, I answered them the best I could. I also told them
8 to go to those Union leaders if they had any other specific
9 questions. And I also did go to a few bargaining meetings or
10 well meetings about what we wanted to bargain for as a store at
11 the Triami Building.

12 Q. Okay. And those bargaining meetings did that involve
13 anyone from the employer?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay.

16 JUDGE RINGLER: So counsel, and you might be done
17 with this area, but she's not in 8A3 allegation, correct?

18 MS. SNELLING: No, she's not, Your Honor.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: So why are we delving so heavily into
20 her Union activity?

21 MS. SNELLING: Yes. So I just wanted to kind of,
22 you'll see later when we talk about --

23 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

24 MS. SNELLING: Something else that she has knowledge
25 of that it -- it'll be really good comparison to somebody who

1 was in 8A3.

2 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. All right.

3 MS. SNELLING: You know, without -- without tipping
4 the witness off.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: Go ahead.

6 MS. SNELLING: Yes. Okay.

7 BY MS. SNELLING:

8 Q. Okay. Megan, when you worked at Sheridan Bailey, you
9 mentioned that you worked with someone named Sam Amato,
10 correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Okay. And how long had you worked with Sam?

13 A. I worked with Sam since September of 2019, all the way up
14 until his termination of August, 2022.

15 Q. Okay. And how many shifts a week would you work with Sam,
16 typically?

17 A. I would definitely see him at least twice a week, if not
18 more.

19 Q. And to the best of your knowledge, what position did Sam
20 hold?

21 A. So Sam was a shift supervisor, he worked closings mostly
22 the very rare, occasional mid-shift on a weekend.

23 Q. Okay. And is Sam still with Starbucks?

24 A. No, he's not.

25 Q. Okay. And why not?

1 A. He was terminated, like I said before, in August of 2022.

2 Q. Okay. And after he was terminated, did you speak with him
3 about his termination?

4 A. I did.

5 Q. Okay. And did he show you anything in reference to his
6 termination?

7 A. I saw the paperwork that he had gotten from his
8 termination.

9 Q. Okay. So the notice of separation?

10 A. Sure.

11 Q. Okay. And if I showed that to you, would you recognize
12 it?

13 A. Yes, I would.

14 MS. SNELLING: Okay. Your Honor, this is already in
15 evidence. This is GC Exhibit 24. That extra coffee. Thank,
16 you.

17 MR. GOODE: I've gotten one.

18 MS. SNELLING: You've got yours. Okay. Perfect.

19 And do you want --

20 BY MS. SNELLING:

21 Q. Megan, do you recognize this?

22 A. Yes, I do.

23 Q. Okay. And so what is this?

24 A. So this was the notice of separation Sam got on August the
25 5th.

1 MR. BALSAM: Objection, this witness is, could not
2 possibly know that this is the separation of Sam received on
3 that date. She can testify only to what Sam showed her. And
4 so the better answer move to strike previous testimony. The
5 better answer is what did Sam show you? This is what he showed
6 you.

7 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Go ahead. I think that's
8 fair.

9 MS. SNELLING: Okay. Yeah.

10 BY MS. SNELLING:

11 Q. So is this what Sam showed you?

12 A. Yes. It is.

13 Q. Okay. How did Sam show you this?

14 A. I -- he sent me a picture of it, initially and then I did
15 see him in person.

16 Q. Okay. And looking over the document to the best of your
17 knowledge, is this a true and accurate copy of what Sam showed
18 you?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. Okay. So I'm going to focus our attention on the
21 bullet in the middle of that box that says on July 3rd, Sam
22 closed the cafe during regular business hours. Do you agree
23 with that statement?

24 A. No, I do not.

25 Q. Why not?

1 A. Because I was the one who closed the cafe.

2 Q. Okay. And so were you working on July 3rd?

3 A. Yes, I was.

4 Q. Okay. And who were you working with?

5 A. I opened that day. I worked with a few different
6 baristas, and then Sam had come in probably between 12:00 and
7 1:00 o'clock that day.

8 Q. Okay. And what location were you working at?

9 A. We were working at the Taniwana, location on Delaware, as
10 our store at Sheridan and North Bailey was closed for
11 renovations.

12 Q. Okay. And Megan, you can flip over the notice of
13 separation contract is not much anymore. Okay. And so were
14 you the one that made the decision to close the cafe?

15 MR. BALSAM: Objection. Asked and answered.

16 JUDGE RINGLER: You can answer. I'll -- I'll allow
17 it. Go ahead.

18 BY MS. SNELLING:

19 Q. Okay. Was anyone else?

20 JUDGE RINGLER: Well -- well, I said I'd allow it.
21 So what was your answer?

22 BY MS. SNELLING:

23 A. So yes, I was the one who closed the cafe.

24 Q. Okay.

25 MR. BALSAM: What was the question? Objection move

1 to strike.

2 JUDGE RINGLER: I'll allow it. Go ahead. Continue
3 counsel.

4 MS. SNELLING: Okay. Thank you.

5 BY MS. SNELLING:

6 Q. Was anyone else involved in the decision to close the
7 cafe?

8 A. No, they were not.

9 Q. Okay. Okay. So why did you close the lobby?

10 A. I closed the lobby that day because we were short staffed.
11 It was a holiday weekend and we weren't able to keep up with
12 business. And so I made the decision it would be best for the
13 store to be drive through only.

14 Q. Okay. And I think you may have mentioned this, but why
15 couldn't you keep up with business that day?

16 MR. BALSAM: Objection, relevance. She said she was
17 -- Objection, relevance and also move to strike the previous
18 answer.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Hold -- hold on one second.
20 Let me just peek up my notes here. I'll -- I'll allow it. Go
21 ahead. You could say why you felt you couldn't keep up with
22 business that day. Well, actually you said it was short
23 staffed with this. You had any other reasons beyond that?

24 THE WITNESS: No, there was just three of us there.
25 Okay. Holiday weekend. So is busy.

1 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

2 BY MS. SNELLING:

3 Q. Okay. And how would closing the cafe help you keep up
4 with business?

5 A. So closing the cafe to keep up with business and being
6 drive through only allowed only one area of production and
7 talking with customers and serving customers, whereas having
8 the lobby open, you had two ways people could be coming in and
9 you had less time to focus on your customers as a whole, and
10 you're unable to keep up with demand.

11 MS. SNELLING: Okay. And Your Honor, I would like to
12 quickly note for the record that we are using Cafe and lobby
13 interchangeably. I just want that to be clear for the record
14 so that we can understand.

15 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Thank you.

16 BY MS. SNELLING:

17 Q. Okay. And what steps did you take to close the lobby,
18 Megan?

19 A. So the steps that I took there are forms that from,
20 lockdown during COVID and not just reopening. There are forms
21 on our partner hub under COVID-19, that allow you to print
22 different forms whether the store is closed because there were
23 worth COVID cases and they can't open until they clean or
24 you're drive through only because again you're short staffed or
25 however.

1 So I went to our back room, printed two signs that
2 said that, you know, sorry for the inconvenience will be drive
3 through only. I taped them on the doors in our cafe, locked
4 the doors, informed the customers inside that they were more
5 than welcome to wait for their beverages. They could still
6 order everything like that.

7 I didn't kick anyone out, went out onto our patio and
8 let those customers know that we would be closing the -- the
9 cafe, the lobby. But they -- if they needed to use the
10 restroom or anything to do it now. So they did and no one had
11 any complaints. And then we went to drive through only.

12 Q. Okay. And about what time did you do that?

13 A. So that was probably around 1:00 p.m.

14 Q. And did you let anyone know besides the customers that you
15 were closing the cafe?

16 A. Yeah. I briefly just told our barista's and Sam, who was
17 another shift supervisor with me at the time. I said, Hey, I'm
18 closing the lobby. We can't keep up in passing and I closed
19 the lobby.

20 Q. Okay. And Megan, why did you think that you could close
21 the lobby?

22 MR. BALSAM: Objection. Leading.

23 JUDGE RINGLER: Why did you think that you could
24 close the lobby? I -- I think that's appropriate. Go ahead.

25 BY MS. SNELLING:

1 A. Okay. So the reason why I thought I could close the
2 lobby, there had been multiple instances, but one specifically
3 was when I talked to a district manager, it was probably
4 sometime December of 2021 when we had a bunch of borrowed
5 managers in the area, at the time his name was Lewis.

6 He told me that I needed to do what was best for my
7 customers and best for my partners. And if that meant closing
8 the lobby, then that, and going drive through, only then that's
9 what I should do. And so in that moment I thought of that and
10 I thought that's what would be best for my customers and for my
11 partners and I closed the lobby.

12 Q. And is this the first time you closed the lobby?

13 A. No, it is not.

14 Q. Okay. How many times prior to this instance had you
15 closed the lobby?

16 A. I know of one instance that was took place probably March
17 of 2022, I closed the lobby because we were short staffed
18 because I had some openers not come in. So I wasn't even able
19 to open the doors to begin with because we didn't have enough
20 staff in the store.

21 Q. Okay. And when you didn't open the lobby in that
22 instance, did you let a manager know?

23 A. I probably let a manager know that people didn't show up,
24 but I didn't specifically state to them that I kept the lobby
25 closed or that we were drive-through only.

1 Q. Okay. And who was the manager that you told people didn't
2 show up for work?

3 A. Her name was Amy.

4 Q. Okay.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: And this is in March of 2022 you're
6 referring to?

7 THE WITNESS: March of 2022. Correct.

8 BY MS. SNELLING:

9 Q. And were you disciplined in that instance of closing the
10 lobby in March of 2022?

11 A. No, I was not.

12 Q. And which location were you at at the time?

13 A. Sheridan and North Bailey.

14 Q. Are you aware of any other employees that closed the
15 lobby?

16 A. Yeah. So there was another shift supervisor who had a
17 similar situation that I did in that May of 2022. Her name is
18 Renee, she also had the lobby closed one morning because again,
19 she didn't have opener show up and it was her and one other
20 person.

21 Q. Okay. And so how did you know that the lobby was closed
22 in that instance?

23 A. I knew the lobby was closed because when I went to go work
24 my shift, it was 7:00 a.m. shift. I had to use my key to get
25 into the door.

1 Q. Okay. And it was that unusual that --

2 A. Yes, because if the store opened at 5:30 a.m. the doors
3 were normally open for the cafe.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. At that time.

6 JUDGE RINGLER: And one more time, you might have
7 said, when was this?

8 THE WITNESS: I don't remember when that instance was
9 exactly, because we've had lobbies closed multiple times when
10 the manager is there as well, just because of short staff, so
11 that was probably sometime maybe September, October of last
12 year, 2022.

13 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

14 BY MS. SNELLING:

15 Q. Okay. And does Renee still work for Starbucks?

16 A. Yes, she does.

17 Q. Okay. Megan, did the Tonawanda location have cameras?

18 A. Yes, they did.

19 Q. Okay. What did the cameras look like?

20 A. They looked like those fishbowl lenses, the 360 cameras.

21 Q. Okay. And where were they located in the store?

22 A. There was one in the back room and I believe there were
23 three, if not four on the floor, there was always one above the
24 registers. So there would be one at drive through, there would
25 be one at the registers for the cafe, and potentially one going

1 down a hallway. Hallway to the back.

2 Q. And to the best of your knowledge, were those cameras
3 working?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. So we'll go back to July 3rd. After you closed the
6 lobby, what, if anything did you do next?

7 A. Closed the lobby, I helped Sam clear out the customers
8 that were in the cafe, by providing their beverages and the
9 like. I helped Sam keep up -- to clean up some of the things
10 and make backups. And then I spoke with him about opening the
11 doors back up around 4:00 o'clock because that's when more
12 staff would be coming in.

13 Q. Okay. And was anything -- was anything, strike that. Let
14 me -- let me rephrase this question. Aside from the lobby,
15 were there any other channels in which you served customers
16 that were closed that day?

17 A. So yes. So we had our mobile ordering system off pretty
18 much almost all day, because right from the beginning, I didn't
19 have people show up in the morning. So I had called my store
20 manager, Hannah, and asked her to have mobiles off until we got
21 more staff in. I went over the schedule for the day with her,
22 and told her that we would be fully staffed starting at 4:00
23 o'clock.

24 Q. Okay. And what is Hannah's last name, if you recall?

25 A. I know it starts with a S, I can't pronounce her last name

1 and I don't want to butcher it.

2 Q. Okay. Is it Stachowiack?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. And when did she become your store manager?

5 A. She became our store manager, I believe, officially in
6 April of 2022.

7 Q. Okay. Okay. So after you had those conversations with
8 Sam, did you leave for the day?

9 A. I did. I left probably around 2:00 o'clock that day,
10 which between 1:30 o'clock.

11 Q. Okay. And so -- so after you left did -- did you hear
12 from your manager?

13 A. Yes. Hannah texted me probably around 4:00, 4:30 that
14 day. I -- like I had mentioned previously, it was a holiday
15 weekend, so I was at a family gathering. So I didn't respond
16 to her via text.

17 Q. Okay. And do you still have those text messages?

18 A. Yes, I do.

19 Q. Okay. And if I showed them to you, would you recognize
20 them?

21 A. Yes, I would.

22 MS. SNELLING: Your Honor, I'm distributing what is
23 marked as GC Exhibit 41.

24 JUDGE RINGLER: All righty, GC-41?

25 MS. SNELLING: Yes.

1 JUDGE RINGLER: All right, thank you.

2 BY MS. SNELLING:

3 Q. Megan, do you recognize this?

4 A. Yes, I do.

5 Q. Okay. What is this?

6 A. So these are the text messages, that I had with my store
7 manager at the time, Hannah, my messages are in the green and
8 hers are in the gray.

9 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-41 identified.)

10 Q. Okay. And is this a screenshot of those messages?

11 A. Yes, it is.

12 Q. Okay. And is this a -- focusing more towards the top of
13 the text messages since we're focusing on July 3rd, is that the
14 complete conversation that you had with her on July 3rd?

15 A. Yes, it is.

16 Q. Okay. And how do you know that you were texting your
17 store manager, Hannah?

18 A. At the top there where it says Hannah SMT, that is her
19 contact that I had for her.

20 Q. Okay. In your phone?

21 A. In my phone, yes.

22 MS. SNELLING: Okay. I move GC Exhibit 41 into
23 evidence.

24 MR. BALSAM: Voir dire?

25 JUDGE RINGLER: Yes.

1 VOIR DIRE

2 BY MR. BALSAM:

3 Q. I'm just trying to understand, you said this is complete
4 text message with your manager?

5 A. Mm-hmm.

6 Q. Chain?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. On the bottom of GC Exhibit 41, there's a part that's cut
9 off.

10 A. Yeah, so that was from July 5th, so that was probably more
11 about asking her for products on her way in. Probably Peat
12 Juice or probably ends with Strawberry Asave pressure base. I
13 asked her to pick up product from another store on her way in.
14 So just hit fit.

15 Q. Just so I'm clear, the what -- what GC the -- GC -- GC-41
16 trying to do is introduce the snapshot of your text messages
17 between Hannah, correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. But you have text messages beyond the ones that you're
20 sitting here?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you still have those on your phone?

23 A. Yes, I do.

24 Q. And in the -- the middle part where it says, did you make
25 the decision to close down the lobby without my permission

1 today, do you see that?

2 A. Yes, I do.

3 Q. Is that Hannah texting you that question?

4 A. Yes, it is.

5 Q. Okay. Did you respond directly to that question?

6 A. I did not respond in a text message. I responded to her
7 in person on Tuesday the 5th when I saw her in person.

8 Q. Why didn't you respond to her right there when she was
9 asking that question?

10 A. Because I was at a family gathering. I wasn't paying
11 attention to my text messages.

12 MR. BALSAM: I have no objection, Judge.

13 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. We'll allow in the -- the text
14 GC-41.

15 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-41 received.)

16 JUDGE RINGLER: And you're only offering it for the
17 July 3rd component, correct?

18 MS. SNELLING: Yes, Your Honor.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: All right.

20 BY MS. SNELLING:

21 Q. And so Megan, if I showed you the contact that you had for
22 Hannah in your phone, would you recognize it?

23 A. Yes, I would.

24 MS. SNELLING: Your Honor, I'm distributing what is
25 pre marked as GC Exhibit 42.

1 BY MS. SNELLING:

2 Q. Okay. Megan, do you recognize this?

3 A. Yes, I do.

4 Q. Okay. What is this?

5 A. That is my contact for Hannah, who was my store manager,
6 like I said at the time.

7 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-42 identified.)

8 Q. Okay. And this -- is this a screenshot from your phone?

9 A. Yes, screenshot from my phone.

10 Q. And that's her phone number under what's stated as mobile?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. And this is a true and accurate copy of the contact
13 card that you have in your phone for Hannah?

14 A. Yes, it is.

15 MS. SNELLING: Okay. I move GC Exhibit 42 into
16 evidence.

17 MR. BALSAM: Judge, I object. It's not relevant,
18 it's also cumulative. As long as I did not object to the
19 introduction of GC Exhibit 41, first to be a text message
20 exchange between Hannah and this witness. It's irrelevant.
21 It's not --

22 JUDGE RINGLER: Yeah, no, I -- I would -- I would
23 tend to agree. We have unrebutted testimony that GC-41 is a
24 text between her and Hannah. If at some point it's somehow
25 challenged that, no, you know, I never received the text and

1 you want to provide this as rebuttal evidence, I'll certainly
2 give you the opportunity at that time.

3 Should you want to withdraw GC-42 and if necessary,
4 provided as rebuttal evidence thereafter after, after you
5 confer.

6 MS. SNELLING: Hold on one minute, Your Honor.
7 Sorry.

8 JUDGE RINGLER: Two people talking to you.

9 MS. SNELLING: Your Honor, it's -- I just want to
10 clarify, is Respondent stipulating that these text message are,
11 these text messages are from -- to Megan from the store
12 manager, then?

13 JUDGE RINGLER: I don't think they're stipulating. I
14 think he said that he doesn't intend to challenge that premise.
15 But if in fact, which would leave that as unrebutted testimony.

16 MS. SNELLING: Yes.

17 JUDGE RINGLER: But if in fact they do challenge it,
18 I'll be very open to taking it as rebuttal evidence. So my
19 question is, do you want me to reject it or would you like to
20 withdraw it and then hold it if you need it later on your call.

21 MS. SNELLING: We can withdraw Your Honor.

22 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. So I'll -- I'll leave that for
23 you to not -- you don't have to get it now, but I'll leave that
24 for you to take that back.

25 MS. SNELLING: Thank you, Your Honor. I'd like to --

1 thank you, Your Honor.

2 JUDGE RINGLER: All right.

3 MS. SNELLING: Okay.

4 BY MS. SNELLING:

5 Q. Megan, focusing on the text messages.

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. Earlier in the day at around 11:30, it looks like Hannah
8 texted you and said, how's it going? What were you speaking
9 with her about at that moment?

10 A. So what I was speaking to Hannah about was I had
11 previously mentioned that I had called her and let her know
12 that we were short-staffed and we needed mobiles turned off.
13 So she had mentioned -- she had texted me and asked me how it
14 was going. Basically, what my frame of reference for that
15 would be is that she was asking me like, do we have enough
16 staff? Can I turn on mobile?

17 MR. BALSAM: Objection, this witness can't testify to
18 the lines of an individual she testify as to what is continuing
19 in this text message.

20 MS. SNELLING: Okay.

21 JUDGE RINGLER: That's -- that's fine. I -- I would
22 sustain that objection.

23 BY MS. SNELLING:

24 A. So my response to Hannah was you know, I had looked ahead,
25 as I said in my text message --

1 MR. BALSAM: Objection, move to strike the documents
2 speaks for itself. She's just repeating what's in the
3 document.

4 JUDGE RINGLER: So I think what would be -- what
5 would be useful?

6 THE WITNESS: I just don't know what the question is.

7 JUDGE RINGLER: Yeah, let me ask you just a question
8 just to -- just to clarify.

9 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

10 JUDGE RINGLER: So I'm clear that I know what your
11 Starbucks lingo means, right?

12 THE WITNESS: Okay. Yeah.

13 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. So you said, Hey Hannah,
14 I was looking ahead for the night. We can definitely have
15 mobiles. What do you mean by mobiles?

16 THE WITNESS: So that is one of the methods of
17 production for us, how customers get their orders mobile
18 ordering ahead.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

20 THE WITNESS: So they -- there's an app and customers
21 can order that way.

22 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Turn back on by 4:00 because
23 that's when we will be good staffing wise. What did you mean
24 by good staffing wise?

25 THE WITNESS: So at that point in time, because it

1 was a Sunday, and we close at 8:00 p.m., we probably had four
2 or five people from 4:00 o'clock on that would be able to cover
3 all methods of production at that time.

4 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. If we can have them on
5 earlier, then I will have Sam contact you. What do you mean by
6 them?

7 THE WITNESS: Them is the mobile orders.

8 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. All right. I -- I think I'm
9 satisfied. I understand what you were saying.

10 MS. SNELLING: Okay. Thank you.

11 BY MS. SNELLING:

12 Q. And which Sam were you referring to in your text message?

13 A. I was referring to Sam Amato.

14 Q. Okay. Great. And Megan, you previously test -- testified
15 that you received a text message from Hannah later in that day,
16 do you see that text message on this?

17 A. Yes, I do.

18 Q. Okay. And so this was previously mentioned but did you
19 ever answer Hannah's question about whether you were the one
20 that closed the lobby?

21 A. I did. I spoke with Hannah as previously mentioned on
22 Tuesday the 5th.

23 Q. Okay. And where were you when you spoke with her about
24 that?

25 A. I was -- we were standing in the doorway of the front of

1 house and back of house at the Tonawanda location.

2 Q. Okay. And how did that conversation start?

3 A. It was me thanking her for bringing in product, was
4 updated in those text messages before, and then I apologized to
5 her and I said, I'm sorry I didn't contact you about closing
6 the lobby. I thought I did what was best.

7 Q. Okay. And what, if anything, did she say in response?

8 A. In response is that she told me that I needed to contact
9 her if, for any of those types of decisions about needing to
10 close down the cafe, and that she would be calling partner
11 resources for next steps.

12 Q. And what, if anything, did you say in response to that?

13 A. I said that I was sorry and that I took responsibility for
14 what I did and that if I had needed to be written up, that was
15 what needed to happen.

16 Q. And is there anything else from this conversation that you
17 remember?

18 A. On that day? No. That we just went on as business as
19 usual.

20 Q. Did you speak to her about closing the lobby, sometime
21 after this again?

22 A. I did. So after she told me that she was going to call
23 partner resources within a week, we had another conversation,
24 she told me she'd gotten a hold of partner resources explain
25 the situation and then I would need to be written up and they

1 said, okay, that's, you know, consequences of my actions.

2 Q. Okay. And where were you when that -- when you had that
3 conversation with her?

4 A. I was at DTO, which is drive through order taking, and she
5 was on the floor with me in the cafe.

6 Q. Okay. And at that time did Hannah tell you -- you would
7 be terminated for closing the lobby?

8 A. No, she did not.

9 Q. Okay. And so she mentioned that you'd be written up.
10 Were you ever written up for closing the lobby?

11 A. No, I was not.

12 Q. Okay. How are individuals given write-ups at Starbucks?

13 MR. BALSAM: Objection this witness cannot testify to
14 the way that individual partner issue write ups across.

15 JUDGE RINGLER: I'll sustain that. Sustained. You
16 don't need to answer that. Okay. Okay. So -- and counsel, I
17 have a lot of people, and I'm sure I'm going to have other
18 people that have testified about two managers being there and
19 then meeting on the patio or meeting in the lobby. So, you
20 know, if it's something -- if it's that, I probably don't need
21 it at this point.

22 MS. SNELLING: Okay.

23 JUDGE RINGLER: If it's something else, then, you
24 know, let's -- let's focus on that.

25 MS. SNELLING: Okay.

1 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

2 BY MS. SNELLING:

3 Q. Okay. Megan, have you ever been disciplined by Starbucks?

4 A. Not to my knowledge, no.

5 Q. Okay. Megan, in the month of July, did you reduce the
6 hours that you worked at Starbucks?

7 MR. BALSAM: Objection, vague as to the year you are
8 talking about?

9 BY MS. SNELLING:

10 Q. July of 2022, did you reduce the hours that you worked at
11 Starbucks?

12 A. Yes. So in July of 2022, I was going to be -- I had
13 initially put in my two weeks' notice, and then I had a
14 conversation because I had another job and I had a conversation
15 with Hannah about that she would love to keep me on. And so I
16 decided to stay on with Hannah on Tuesday mornings and Sunday
17 mornings.

18 Q. Okay. And so remind us at that time, how many days of
19 work -- days a week were you working?

20 A. I was working there five days a week prior to that, and
21 then I would say towards the end of July, beginning of August,
22 that's when I started going down to Tuesdays and Sundays.

23 Q. Okay. And so what if any, pushback did you receive for
24 reducing your hours?

25 A. None that I know of. It was just business as usual for

1 me. Q. Okay. Megan, did Hannah ever create a new
2 disciplinary policy while you worked there?

3 A. Yes. So there was a disciplinary action. She called it
4 the Three Strikes Rule.

5 Q. Okay. What is the three Strikes Rule?

6 A. So the three strikes rule was if we had to coach you for a
7 third time on something, like closing, keeping your ice bins
8 closed, or keeping rags and buckets, milks in your fridge,
9 things like that. If I had to coach you for a third time, I
10 was to hand the barista or partner, an iPad and said, sorry,
11 you're going home.

12 Q. Okay. So what position within the store was enforcing the
13 three strikes rule?

14 A. So it was on --

15 MR. BALSAM: Objection, vague.

16 JUDGE RINGLER: So what position you're -- you're
17 suggesting manager versus shift supervisor is what you're
18 asking?

19 MS. SNELLING: Yes.

20 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

21 MS. SNELLING: Who is supposed to be applying to.

22 JUDGE RINGLER: I'll allow the question. Go ahead.

23 BY MS. SNELLING:

24 A. Okay. So for the three strikes rule, it was the shift
25 supervisors who were supposed to be using that rule with the

1 baristas. And Hannah was the one who was enforcing the shift
2 supervisors to enforce the three strikes rule to the baristas.

3 Q. Okay. And how did you learn of this rule?

4 A. It was something that Hannah had brought up to us
5 individually as shift supervisors, and at one of our shift
6 supervisor meetings she discussed what she meant by that role.

7 Q. Okay. And when was this meeting where this rule was
8 introduced?

9 A. It was -- took place in June of 2022.

10 Q. Okay. And for context, was that at the Tonawanda
11 location?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Okay. Had you ever heard rule prior to Hannah
14 implementing it?

15 A. No, I have not.

16 Q. And is this rule somewhere in the Starbucks partner guide?

17 MR. BALSAM: Objection. Witness testified she's
18 never heard of it so.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: Sustained.

20 BY MS. SNELLING:

21 Q. So Megan, how would you characterize the impacts of this
22 rule?

23 MR. BALSAM: Objection, relevance.

24 MS. SNELLING: Your Honor, it's argued in the
25 complaint that this was a retaliatory policy, so I would like

1 to explore the impacts.

2 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. I'll allow it.

3 BY MS. SNELLING:

4 Q. Okay. So how would you characterize the impacts of this
5 rule on your store?

6 A. Well, the shift supervisors most of us gave her pushback
7 on the three strikes rule. We were already working short
8 staffed, so having to send somebody home because they had to
9 remind them for a third time to keep their ice bin closed in
10 summertime when they're making drinks as fast as they possibly
11 can.

12 Just seemed silly to short staff us by doing that.
13 And I do know that some shift supervisors, I don't know what
14 their conversations were, but I do know that they went to
15 Hannah with some of their complaints about that rule and maybe
16 other things too. But like I said, I'm not privy to those
17 conversations.

18 I had my own conversation with Hannah about that.
19 I'd try it, but it just doesn't seem like it's going to work.
20 She mentioned to me that sending somebody home for using the
21 three Strikes rule would just kind of show how serious we were
22 about this and that people wouldn't be making those mistakes
23 again as to not get sent home.

24 Q. Okay. And -- and prior to this rule, would you send
25 Barista's home for the things that you had to send people home

1 under the three strikes rule?

2 A. No, the only time I ever sent barista's home for illness
3 or if they were just not living up to Starbucks missions and
4 values.

5 Q. Okay. I know you mentioned individual -- an individual
6 meeting you had with Hannah. Did you have a collective meeting
7 with Hannah about this rule?

8 A. We did again, we had a shift supervisor meeting in July of
9 2022. And again, we did bring up the three strikes rule and
10 how we just -- it just seemed silly to implement. And that
11 maybe there was a better idea. And so that was part of the
12 meeting was trying to come up with a better solution to
13 coaching our, our partners.

14 Q. Okay. And where did this meeting take place?

15 A. It took place in the cafe of the Tonawanda location.

16 Q. Okay. And what if anything, did Hannah say to the group's
17 concerns?

18 A. From what I remember is that the reason why she did the
19 three strikes policy is she just wanted everybody to know that
20 this was, you know, this is your job, this is what you should
21 be doing. We're not doing anything new. We're not rewriting
22 the, you know, what -- reinventing the wheel, I guess, really
23 is what it was. And --

24 Q. Megan, did you agree with that statement that they weren't
25 doing anything new?

1 A. No, I didn't agree with that. Because three strikes rule,
2 like I said, not something I've heard before. I understood to
3 an extent what she was trying to get at. But the rule itself
4 just seemed silly, because again, being short-staffed and
5 sending people home when you're already short-staffed, just
6 like shooting yourself in the foot.

7 Q. Okay. So Megan, did you ever work with someone named
8 Tatiayna Gurskiy?

9 A. Yes, I did.

10 Q. Okay. And what position did she have at Starbucks?

11 A. Tati was a shift supervisor.

12 Q. Okay. And how frequently would you work with Tati?

13 A. At least three days a week.

14 Q. Okay. And what was your experience working with Tatiana?

15 MR. BALSAM: Objection relevance.

16 THE WITNESS: We --

17 JUDGE RINGLER: Go ahead.

18 MR. BALSAM: This individual can't assess shift
19 supervisor performance. She's not a manager.

20 JUDGE RINGLER: I think to the extent she knows the
21 same way. You might judge a -- a good lawyer and say, Hey, you
22 know, I -- I -- my standards, this person has their standards.
23 I think they're better. I think they're worse. I think
24 they're, you know, something to look up to. I think a shift
25 supervisor could go through the same exercise, so I'll allow

1 it.

2 BY MS. SNELLING:

3 A. Okay. So Tati was -- I feel she did very well as a shift
4 supervisor. She was always willing to learn and always learned
5 from mistakes as well, and she never had an issue with going to
6 a manager if she had questions. So, in that regards learning
7 and making herself a better shift supervisor in doing that. I
8 think she just showed like really what it meant to be a shift
9 supervisor.

10 Q. Okay. Does Tatiana still work for Starbucks?

11 A. No, she does not.

12 Q. And why not?

13 A. She was terminated.

14 Q. Okay. And how do you know she was terminated?

15 A. A fellow shift supervisor had mentioned to me because I
16 had asked a shift that I was supposed to work with Tatiana

17 MR. BALSAM: Objection, hearsay. Move to Strike.

18 JUDGE RINGLER: Is it -- is it in dispute that she
19 was fired?

20 MR. BALSAM: Circumstances of her termination that
21 she heard from a fellow --

22 JUDGE RINGLER: No, she just said she heard from a
23 fellow shift supervisor.

24 MR. BALSAM: And she shouldn't explain the details of
25 what was happening.

1 JUDGE RINGLER: I don't know that she is, I think she
2 was just saying she would --

3 THE WITNESS: I was just saying I heard from a shift
4 supervisor that --

5 JUDGE RINGLER: She was fired.

6 THE WITNESS: She was terminated. Yeah. Not the
7 circumstances.

8 JUDGE RINGLER: Limited to -- yeah. Circumstances
9 were related to you.

10 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I don't --

11 JUDGE RINGLER: Not say that.

12 THE WITNESS: I don't know what the circumstances
13 are.

14 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

15 THE WITNESS: Just that she was let go.

16 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

17 BY MS. SNELLING:

18 Q. Okay. And do you know whether Tatiayna appealed her
19 termination?

20 A. Yes, she did.

21 Q. Okay. And did you help her in her field process?

22 A. Yes. The shift supervisor that had mentioned to me that
23 Tatiayna had been terminated, let me know that --

24 MR. BALSAM: Objection hearsay. She's talking about
25 a conversation with someone else.

1 JUDGE RINGLER: Well, let me -- let me just hear what
2 we've got to say and then you could review your objection once
3 the testimony is done.

4 THE WITNESS: So the chief supervisor who mentioned
5 her termination said that she was asking for people to, Tati
6 was asking for people to write letters for her appeal. And so
7 I messaged Tati directly and I asked her, would you like me to
8 write you a letter?

9 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. So I'll allow the testimony
10 and not for its truth, just for the fact that it was said. So
11 I'll -- we'll -- we'll leave that.

12 BY MS. SNELLING:

13 Q. Okay. And, did you then write a statement for Tatiana?

14 A. Yes, I did.

15 Q. Okay. And did you give that statement to her?

16 A. Yes. So I wrote the letter.

17 MR. BALSAM: Objection, move to strike, non-
18 responsive to the question.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. So the question was, did you
20 give the letter to Tati? It's really yes or no?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, yes I did.

22 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. So sustained on the objection,
23 I think we clarified on the record. Thank you.

24 BY MS. SNELLING:

25 Q. And Megan, how did you give it to Tati?

1 A. I emailed her the letter.

2 Q. Okay. And do you still have that email?

3 A. Yes, I do.

4 Q. Okay. And if I showed it to you, would you recognize it?

5 A. Yes, I would.

6 Q. And within that email was there an attachment?

7 A. Yes it was.

8 Q. And what -- what was that Attachment?

9 A. The letter.

10 Q. Okay. Great. And if I showed that to you, would you
11 recognize it?

12 A. Yes, I would.

13 Q. Okay.

14 MS. SNELLING: Your Honor, I'm distributing what has
15 been marked as 43A and B.

16 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. Okay. Thank you.

17 BY MS. SNELLING:

18 Q. Looking at 43A, Megan, do you recognize that?

19 A. Yes, I do.

20 Q. Okay. And what is 43A?

21 A. It is a screenshot of the email that I sent to Tati.

22 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-43A identified.)

23 Q. Okay. And with the -- within this email, do you see the
24 attachment that you were just mentioning?

25 A. Yes, I do.

1 Q. Okay. And how do you know that you sent this to Tati?

2 A. In the -- to section has her name on there.

3 Q. Okay. And where is your email on this?

4 A. It was sent from my phone. It's my name right there at
5 the top.

6 Q. What is the email that you -- what is the email address
7 that you sent this email through?

8 A. It was through my Gmail account. Do you need the full?

9 Q. Sure.

10 A. It's, mng1489@gmail.com.

11 Q. Okay. Great, and then looking at the 43(b) do you
12 recognize that?

13 A. Yes, I do.

14 Q. Okay. And what is this?

15 A. So that was just a letter that I wrote to basically just
16 talk about the character of Tati.

17 Q. Okay. And, are both the -- is the email a true and
18 accurate copy of the email that you sent to Tati?

19 A. Yes, it is.

20 Q. And is this letter a true and accurate copy of the letter
21 that you sent to Tati?

22 A. Yes. It is.

23 MS. SNELLING: Okay. I move for admission of GC
24 Exhibit 43A and B into the evidence.

25 JUDGE RINGLER: Counsel?

1 MR. BALSAM: Judge, I object to the introduction of
2 this document to evidence. There's no relevance at all to this
3 proceeding she just testified by the way, that she wasn't aware
4 of reason for Tatiayana Gurskiy's separation, the fact that she
5 wrote a letter supporting the individual has no bearing on the
6 under lying case and there I move for it not to be admitted
7 into evidence as irrelevant.

8 JUDGE RINGLER: So -- so I'm at a disadvantage
9 because we haven't had the Gursky testimony yet. So why don't
10 you explain to me the -- the relevance of this to make it, I
11 think I understand, but I shouldn't make assumption. So --

12 MS. SNELLING: Yes.

13 JUDGE RINGLER: Go ahead.

14 MS. SNELLING: And, so one, Your Honor --

15 JUDGE RINGLER: Do you want me to have the witness
16 excused?

17 MS. SNELLING: I just forgot to say, do you want to
18 have the witness leave?

19 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. So if you would --

20 MS. SNELLING: Yeah.

21 JUDGE RINGLER: The reason being, we don't want any
22 allegation that you're saying what you heard as opposed to what
23 you recall when you come back. So give us two minutes, but
24 don't go too far away.

25 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'll be right outside the door.

1 JUDGE RINGLER: Then we'll get you back. Thank you
2 so much. Okay. Okay. Our witnesses is out of the courtroom.
3 So what is the -- what is the relevance?

4 MS. SNELLING: Okay. Yes. So, Your Honor, Tati will
5 testify most likely tomorrow, that she did do an appeal and
6 that she did receive this character statement from Megan, and
7 also it goes to that she was in our opinion and -- and making
8 our case that she was wrongfully terminated. And the
9 circumstances of her termination was that she got into an
10 argument. So this is going directly to Tati, who Tati was and
11 -- and you know --

12 JUDGE RINGLER: Right. Her workplace.

13 MS. SNELLING: Right.

14 JUDGE RINGLER: Conduct and her -- her perception of
15 also how she was as a coworker.

16 MS. SNELLING: Tati will be able to confirm tomorrow
17 that she did receive these and it was a part of her appeal
18 package that she submitted to Starbucks Corporation.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: Yeah, no, I think that the -- the,
20 the -- the objection is more relevance based. Correct?

21 MR. BALSAM: Correct. The appeal is not an issue in
22 this case. Right? Once again, I'll reiterate my point of case
23 before that this witness' assessment for coworker's performance
24 and the underlying issues around her recommendation is
25 completely irrelevant. She wasn't a decision maker to the fact

1 that she's providing a character reference for her colleague.
2 It doesn't have any basis in this case.

3 It -- there has no bearing to your ultimate decision
4 making in this case. And it's beyond that. It's also
5 cumulative. The witness had also already testified to the
6 substance of this document that she thought that her colleague
7 was a good employee.

8 So I don't know why we need this document also. And
9 so I would object on relevance grounds and also on the fact
10 that it's cumulative.

11 MS. SNELLING: Your Honor, if it's cumulative, then
12 we can strike Megan's testimony about you know, what she
13 thought of Tati's character and put this evidence in, instead.
14 So that, that is not necessarily cumulative.

15 JUDGE RINGLER: Well, it doesn't work like that.

16 MS. SNELLING: Okay. Thought I'd give it a try.

17 JUDGE RINGLER: It's a good thought. It's definitely
18 a good thought.

19 MR. BALSAM: Your Honor, these are also going to be -
20 -I mean, these are business records, right? This is part of
21 her appeal process.

22 MR. GOODE: This document is not business record.

23 MR. BALSAM: It's maintained

24 MR. GOODE: By itself is not a business record.

25 MR. BALSAM: Starbucks will have this already.

1 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

2 MR. BALSAM: And they're part of --

3 JUDGE RINGLER: And so let me --

4 MR. BALSAM: -- the appeal process.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: Let me -- let's not go back and forth

6 because that never brings us to like a, a good spot candidly.

7 You are also going to have Ms. Gurskiy testify --

8 MS. SNELLING: Yes.

9 JUDGE RINGLER: As well.

10 MS. SNELLING: Yes.

11 JUDGE RINGLER: And she's going to -- I assume she's

12 going to testify that I provided this letter to Starbucks?

13 MS. SNELLING: Yes.

14 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. So let me -- we're going

15 to just put this one on hold. Okay. And I'll have you tie it

16 up tomorrow and then I'll -- I'll rule on it at that point,

17 because if it's presented then to Starbucks, then that -- that

18 might in fact be something else. But we did build a foundation

19 through this witness, so I'm going to handle it that way. So

20 at this point it's been offered, I haven't ruled on it. So --

21 and I'll make a note that you're going to deal with that during

22 the Gurskiy testimony.

23 MS. SNELLING: Yes, Your Honor.

24 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. So let us now bring her back,

25 please. We'll continue. Okay. Thank you for your patience

1 with us.

2 THE WITNESS: Yes, of course.

3 MS. SNELLING: And so I have no further questions for
4 this witness at this time.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Okay. Very good, counsel?

6 MR. HAYES: No, no questions.

7 JUDGE RINGLER: No questions. All right, jenk
8 statements?

9 MS. SNELLING: It is seven pages, Your Honor.

10 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Perfect. So let's see what
11 time we've got, so why don't we reconvene at 10:20?

12 MR. BALSAM: Sounds good. Thank you, Judge.

13 JUDGE RINGLER: All right, thank you as well. So
14 we're off the record until that time. Feel free to walk
15 around, just don't discuss your testimony with anyone.

16 THE WITNESS: Okay.

17 JUDGE RINGLER: And we'll see you at 10:20.

18 THE WITNESS: All right.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: Or before

20 (Brief recess at 10:03 a.m./Reconvened at 10:20 a.m.)

21 JUDGE RINGLER: One moment, we're ready. Okay.
22 Good. Go to it.

23 MR. BALSAM: Great.

24 CROSS EXAMINATION

25 BY MR. BALSAM:

1 Q. Good morning.

2 A. Morning.

3 Q. You and Mr. Amato are good friends, correct?

4 A. Yes, we are.

5 Q. Do you still keep in touch with Mr. Amato?

6 A. Yes, I do.

7 Q. All right. Would you lie for Mr. Amato?

8 A. No.

9 MS. SNELLING: Objection. You just asked that the
10 witness lied on the stand when --

11 MR. BALSAM: I did not. I said, would you lie? I
12 didn't say she did.

13 JUDGE RINGLER: She said no. I'll -- I'll leave the
14 testimony in.

15 BY MR. BALSAM:

16 Q. Do you remember giving an affidavit to the National Labor
17 Relations Board in connection with this case?

18 A. Yes, I do.

19 Q. Okay. In paragraph 18 of that affidavit, you wrote, I
20 texted Sam saying I was sorry to hear he was fired. Sam told
21 me he was filing appeals through the Starbucks, through
22 Starbucks complaint, to appeal his termination, and also file
23 for an appointment. Sam asked me, I could -- if he could say
24 that I was the one who closed the lobby in the appeal support,
25 do you remember writing that?

1 A. Yes, I did.

2 Q. Why would Sam ask you the lobby -- if you could use your
3 name as the one who closed, the lobby if you had already, you
4 were the one that closed, the lobby. Why would he have to ask
5 that?

6 A. Because he wanted to know if I wanted my name attached to
7 his appeal or if he wanted to leave me out, or if I wanted him
8 to leave me out of it.

9 Q. And it wasn't because he was the one who actually closed
10 it, not you?

11 A. No, I -- I'm sorry.

12 Q. Did you have any conversation prior to you submitting this
13 affidavit about who actually made the decision to close the
14 lobby?

15 A. No.

16 Q. At no point in time did Sam ask you to take the fall for
17 him closing the lobby?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Turning to your attention to the date in question July
20 3rd, when did you -- when -- when did your shift end that day?

21 A. It was supposed to be between 1:00 and 1:30 that I was
22 supposed to leave. I don't recall the exact time.

23 Q. Okay. When would Mr. Amato supposed to start his shift?

24 A. He was supposed to start a half hour before I was supposed
25 to leave.

1 Q. And what is the reason why Starbucks had shift supervisors
2 overlap in terms of shifts?

3 A. Normally it's for the handoffs, so we can let them know,
4 Hey, this is what's been going on. This is what you'll need to
5 do for later in the day, and so that way we can set the floor
6 up for success.

7 Q. And so at the time that the lobby wasn't that closed, Sam
8 was the one who was the shift supervisor responsible for the
9 store, correct?

10 A. I guess so, yes.

11 Q. Yes. Right?

12 A. Yes. Yeah.

13 Q. Because you had already handed over the store to him for -
14 - to take control, right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You testified earlier that on at least this one prior
17 occasion you had closed the lobby channel without obtaining
18 your manager's prior approval. Do you remember that testimony?

19 A. Yes, I do.

20 Q. And again, I'm drawing your attention back to the
21 affidavit that you provided to the National Labor Relations
22 Board in this case paragraph 14, where you say, I cannot recall
23 closing the lobby by myself without a manager or without being
24 told, except for on July 3rd. You remember that right now?

25 A. Yes, I did. Yes, I do.

1 Q. Are you -- are you saying right now, you going to change
2 your testimony to comport with what you said previously
3 affidavit. Did you close -- have you closed the store prior to
4 July 3rd without a Azure approval?

5 A. Yes, I have.

6 Q. And when?

7 A. Like I said, it was probably sometime March, 2022.

8 Q. So then why did you write in your affidavit that you
9 couldn't recall another date? When did you become aware of
10 this other date that you're testifying to today?

11 A. It's just something I remember at the time when I wrote my
12 affidavit, I didn't remember it.

13 Q. So you wrote this affidavit on you -- you signed this
14 affidavit on April 6th, 23, which was 17 days ago. I'm sorry.
15 14 days ago, and you're saying your memory's better now than
16 almost 14 days ago about events that occurred in July of 23 or
17 22?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Yeah?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Now, who was your manager in March of 22 when you closed
22 the channel without prior approval?

23 A. Her name was Amy. I don't recall what her last name was.
24 She was one of the managers that had come in from out of town
25 to help the support managers.

1 Q. Was Amy in the store when the store was closed, the
2 channel was closed?

3 A. No, she was not.

4 Q. Okay. Did you ever tell Amy that you had closed the
5 channel?

6 A. She came in later that day and I let her know that.

7 Q. Okay. And what was Amy was responsible when you told her
8 that you had closed the channel without obtaining prior
9 approval?

10 A. She just said, okay.

11 Q. That was it?

12 A. Yeah, it was.

13 Q. And Amy's not the same manager as Hannah, correct?

14 A. No, she's not.

15 Q. And when does Hannah start working yet at Tonawanda, no
16 Shariden and Bailey?

17 A. So again, I started working with them she was a store
18 manager in. So she came over sometime, I want to say January
19 of 2022.

20 Q. Okay. And at any point in time, isn't it true that at no
21 point in time Hannah told you that you could close a channel
22 without her prior verdict, correct?

23 A. You rephrase that?

24 Q. Sure. At no point in time did Hannah ever tell you that
25 you can close a channel without her prior verdict, correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. But yet you, you did it anyway, according to your, your
3 testimony that you said you were the one who made the decision
4 to close the lobby, correct?

5 MR. GOODE: Objection, asked and answered.

6 JUDGE RINGLER: I'll allow it. You can answer. He's
7 asking you yes you closed the lobby, no you didn't close the
8 lobby.

9 BY MR BALSAM:

10 A. Yes, I closed the lobby.

11 Q. And you did it knowing that you were doing it in violation
12 of policy, correct?

13 A. No.

14 Q. I just asked you if you -- you -- you knew that you were
15 required to require people to close the channel, and you said,

16 A. No, I'm sorry, then I misunderstood your question.

17 MR. GOODE: Objection. That was not the question.

18 JUDGE RINGLER: Why don't you ask your question
19 again? I think she's --

20 THE WITNESS: I'm -- I'm a little bit confused of how
21 you're asking.

22 BY MR. BALSAM:

23 Q. As I understand your testimony.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. You were not aware or you did not believe that you have a

1 right to close a channel without obtaining prior approval to do
2 so, correct?

3 A. No, I'm --

4 Q. As a shift supervisor, are you able to close a channel
5 without prior approval?

6 A. As far as I'm aware. Yes.

7 Q. And the text message that you provided to us, which is GC
8 Exhibit 41, you -- you said that Hannah wrote to you. How's it
9 going? Your response was, Hey Hannah, I was looking ahead for
10 the night.

11 We can definitely have the mobiles turned back on by
12 4:00 cause that's when we'll be good. Staffing wise, as I
13 understood your testimony from before you contacted Hannah in
14 advance of closing mobile -- the mobile channel to let her know
15 you were doing that. Is that correct?

16 A. We are --

17 Q. Is that correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Why did you call her in advance of closing the channel if
20 you didn't have an obligation to do it?

21 A. Because we as shift supervisors have -- don't have the
22 ability to turn off the mobile orders. Only store managers do.

23 Q. Okay. So your testimony is that you could close the lobby
24 because you had the physical ability to do that without
25 notifying a manager first?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And that's based on what?

3 A. Based on previous experience.

4 Q. The one experience that you testified to occurring in
5 March of 22?

6 A. Yes, I was --

7 Q. Which -- which contradicts your affidavit, correct?

8 A Yes, it does.

9 Q. If -- if you knew that you could close a channel without
10 obtaining prior management approval, why did you then apologize
11 to Hannah out for doing that?

12 A. I apologized because she was upset.

13 Q. Why was she upset?

14 A. Because I closed the channel without letting her know.

15 Q. So you knew at the time -- how did you know that she was
16 upset? Just before, before you spoke to her in person on July
17 5th?

18 A. Oh, no. I didn't know if she was upset or not.

19 Q. Okay. So when -- what did you think she meant when she
20 wrote, did you make the decision to close down the lobby
21 without my permission today?

22 A. Exactly what she said.

23 Q. Okay. So why would she be asking you or suggesting that
24 she needed to, you needed to get her permission before closing
25 down the channel?

1 MS. SNELLING: Objection. He's asking her to
2 speculate to Hannah's thought process.

3 JUDGE RINGLER: Sustained.

4 BY MR. BALSAM:

5 Q. You testified about shift supervisor by the name of Renee?

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. What's Renee's last name?

8 A. I could probably spell it for you. I can't pronounce it.

9 Q. Where's Renee's supervisor?

10 A. Sheridan and North Bailey.

11 Q. Okay. And she -- is Renee still employed by Starbucks?

12 A. Yes, she is.

13 Q. Okay. And you said that Renee had closed down the -- the
14 lobby channel under similar circumstances as your testimony
15 occurring on to her, correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. How do you know that?

18 A. Because I had gone into the store using my key the day
19 that she had done it.

20 Q. Okay. And how do you know that she was not disciplined
21 for closing down the -- the lobby?

22 A. She never mentioned to me that she was disciplined for it,
23 so she was -- I don't know.

24 Q. You don't know?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Do you know whether Renee asked for prior approval before
2 she closed down the lobby?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Okay. So -- and how, is it a similar circumstance to what
5 you did or Sam did on July, July 3rd?

6 A. I don't know.

7 Q. You don't know, right?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. You -- there was some discussion about how you reduced
10 your hours in July 22, correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Okay. And you said that Hannah said, and at that point in
13 time you had already notified Starbucks of your intention to
14 leave and take another job, correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Okay. So when did you first move by Starbucks of your
17 intent to leave?

18 A. It was probably the last week of June.

19 Q. Okay. So before the July 30th then?

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. So at that point in time, you were already given your
22 notice that you were reporting Starbucks, correct? Yes?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. So you have nothing to lose by taking the fall for closing
25 the store July 3rd, correct?

1 MS. SNELLING: Objection. Objection.

2 JUDGE RINGLER: Oh, it's cross-examinations. It's
3 appropriate.

4 MR. BALSAM: Judge, it goes to her credibility.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: Right. I'll -- I'll allow it.

6 BY MR. BASLAM:

7 Q. And you have nothing to lose because you were leaving in
8 two weeks time. Getting a written warning really doesn't make
9 any difference to you, correct?

10 MR. GOODE: Objection. Asked and answered.

11 BY MR. BALSAM:

12 A. It does to me because as a person, I didn't want to be
13 written up for something that I shouldn't be written up for.
14 Nobody likes to get in trouble.

15 Q. At that point in time you already notified Starbucks, that
16 you were leaving in June, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. But you mentioned that even after you notified Hannah or
19 Starbucks of your intention to leave Hannah said that she loved
20 you and wanted to work with you, so you would stay correct. Is
21 that the testimony, correct?

22 A. Yes. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. And then as a result, you reduced your availability
24 to two days a week, is that correct?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Tuesdays and Sundays?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. All right. And you said that you were able to do that
4 without any issue?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Isn't it true that the reason why you were able to reduce
7 your availability to two days per week, was because that
8 particular store was able to accommodate that reduced
9 availability?

10 A. Yes, they were.

11 Q. Okay. Have you -- are you aware of a situation where
12 individuals who have tried to reduce their availability at your
13 store were not able to cause of the operational needs of the
14 store?

15 A. No.

16 Q. But that's -- that's the situations under which a partner
17 would not be able to reduce their availability. The operations
18 of the store wouldn't be able to accommodate it, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. And that's been the case for all the years that you've
21 worked at Starbucks?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And Hannah, you -- you testified that you were a outspoken

24 MS. SNELLING: objection. Her name is Megan.

25 MR. BALSAM: I'm sorry, Megan. Thank you.

1 BY MR. BALSAM:

2 Q. Megan, you testified that you were an outspoken supporter
3 of the Union, correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. From the beginning of the campaign?

6 A. Not from the beginning. No.

7 Q. When did you start becoming a supporter of the Union?

8 A. When I knew more about it.

9 Q. Okay. And that -- when was that?

10 A. That was during the fall slash winter of 2021.

11 Q. Okay. And so for several months, the time that you became
12 a supporter of the Union, you made a note to Starbucks until
13 the time of your decision to leave Starbucks, I'm sorry, until
14 July of 23, I think it's right that you were still, you -- you
15 left Starbucks and came back, is that what --

16 A. January of 2023. Yeah. Right.

17 Q. You were never subject to any type of discipline?

18 A. No, I was not.

19 Q. Now talking about Hannah's so-called three strike rule
20 that she implemented, you said that you notified Hannah on
21 various occasions about how you thought the three strike rule
22 was silly and that we should come up with a better way to deal
23 with infractions or violations of company policy, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And I believe your testimony was that prior to this rule,

1 you would not send people home for violations of the so called
2 three strike rules, but that you would send home partners for
3 not adhering to Starbucks values, correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Now remind me, what were the infractions that Hannah
6 purportedly told you would warrant coaching under the three
7 strike rule?

8 A. Some of those infractions would be not keeping an ice bin
9 lid closed not keeping milks in the bridge keeping rags on the
10 counters, basically anything that was to behavior that we
11 needed to coach. Right.

12 Q. Didn't Starbucks have policies relating to cleanliness in
13 the store?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And aren't partners disciplined for not adhering to safety
16 and cleanliness standards?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So how is that any different than what Hannah was telling
19 you?

20 A. The only difference was is that instead of just being
21 pulled aside and spoken to about it, they were being sent home.

22 Q. But that would be after three strikes, correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. All right. And so in a situation where a partner, for
25 example, violates Starbucks health and safety standards,

1 wouldn't they also be sent home?

2 A. I guess it would depend on the situation.

3 Q. But there are situations in which a partner would be sent
4 home for violating Starbucks health and safety standards, which
5 would include, for example, not properly storing food along
6 those lines, correct?

7 A. I've never had somebody sent home from that, but short.

8 Q. But you've had partners being sent home for violating
9 various Starbucks policies, correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Including various health safety standards?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. You have, correct?

14 A. If you're talking about I working with an illness, then
15 yes.

16 Q. Okay. What about food storage and preparation?

17 A. Food storage and preparation. I've never heard anybody
18 sent home for that.

19 Q. Are you aware of anyone who has been sent home for that?

20 A. No.

21 Q. At Starbucks?

22 A. No.

23 Q. And again, even though you were an outspoken critic to
24 Hannah of the so called three strike rule, at no point in time
25 did you receive any discipline?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Going back to the date July 3rd when the lobby channel was
3 closed, so the cafe was closed. If the store was so busy, why
4 did you not close that channel earlier in the day?

5 A. Because we did have more than three people working at the
6 time, but then people were going home, so there was only three
7 of us on the floor.

8 Q. But Mr. Amato had arrived, so you did have another person
9 there, correct?

10 A. Well, I had to send somebody on their lunch, and then I
11 was supposed to be leaving, so I stayed later than I was
12 supposed to that day. So it stayed at three people.

13 Q. But you had already turned mobile ordering off prior to
14 this so that were already produced more than the other
15 channels. So at this point in time, you produced it now to
16 just drive through?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Didn't that already alleviate the issue of being able to
19 accommodate the customer?

20 A. No. Well, so July 3rd, like I said, because it's a
21 holiday, we had large groups of families and large orders
22 coming through both sides of the production channel. So
23 through drive-through and through the cafe with only three
24 people, it's hard for one person to keep up with making six
25 drinks per order and one person taking orders and taking care

1 of the customers at the window with their pain, and also having
2 to cook the food. So there was no one to do the dishes and
3 make backups should we need them as it was a holiday weekend
4 and summertime.

5 Q. Neither yourself nor Mr. Amato got prior permission to
6 close down the cafe?

7 A. No, we did not.

8 MR. BALSAM: Give me one moment, Judge?

9 JUDGE RINGLER: Yes.

10 BY ME. BALSAM:

11 Q. While you were a shift supervisor under Hannah, did you
12 ever send home a partner for violating the three strike rule?

13 A. Yes, I did. I believe I sent home her name is Brittany.

14 Q. What's Brittany's last name?

15 A. I know it starts with an L. She no longer works for
16 Starbucks.

17 Q. What was the reason why you sent home, Brittany?

18 MS. SNELLING: Objection, relevance.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: I think we have the application of
20 this alleged policy, so I'll -- I'll allow it. Go ahead. You
21 could say what the circumstances were.

22 BY MR. BALSAM:

23 A. I sent Brittany home, because it was more than three
24 times, but keeping her ice bin closed.

25 Q. And I'm sorry you don't recall when you did this?

1 A. It was definitely sometime in summer of 2022 while we were
2 at the Tonawanda location.

3 Q. But as you just testified, she kept the ice bin open more
4 than three times, correct?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. So there wasn't an -- an enforcement of a Starbucks three
7 strike, correct?

8 A. Yeah, I did it properly after the -- correct.

9 Q. And that's the only partner to your recollection
10 throughout the entire time that you worked at that location
11 that you --

12 A. Implement --

13 Q. Sent any -- any partner home for multiple infractions that
14 he did?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. So there was some testimony about your friendship with
17 Tatiayna Gurskiy. Do you remember that?

18 A. Mm-hmm. Correct.

19 Q. You said she was a shift supervisor and you worked with
20 her a few days per week?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And testified that you became aware that she was
23 terminated. Were you present on the day in which she was
24 terminated at work?

25 A. No, I was not.

1 Q. Were you present when Tatiayna engaged in the conduct that
2 formed the basis of her separation?

3 A. No, I was not.

4 Q. And in fact, you have no idea why Tatiayna was separated?

5 A. No, I did not.

6 Q. Do you know Tatiayna had received discipline prior to her
7 separation?

8 A. Not that I'm aware of.

9 MR. BALSAM: Nothing further.

10 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Redirect?

11 MS. SNELLING: Yes, Your honor.

12 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY MS. SNELLING:

14 Q. Megan, so you mentioned that you had sent people or sent
15 barista's home prior to the three strikes rule being
16 implemented, what specifically would you send employees home
17 for?

18 MR. BALSAM: Objection asked and answered.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: I'll -- I'll allow it. go ahead.

20 BY MS. SNELLING:

21 A. I would send people home for illness. So if somebody got
22 sick on the floor, or in the bathroom, whatever, what have you.
23 I also have sent people home because they're having bad mental
24 health day and so they were just not focused on work and so I
25 sent home them home for that.

1 Q. Okay. And so would you consider someone being sick as a
2 food safety issue?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Okay. You also testified that you sent someone home for
5 not closing the ice bin, prior to the three strikes rule, had
6 you sent someone home for not closing the ice bin?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Okay. Megan, what, if anything, did you wear in regards
9 to the Union while you were working?

10 MR. BALSAM: Objection. Asked and answered. She
11 testified she wasn't -- didn't wear a pin.

12 JUDGE RINGLER: I'll sustain that.

13 BY MS. SNELLING:

14 Q. Megan, did you wear a Union shirt while working?

15 A. No, I did not.

16 Q. Okay. And did you wear anything Union related besides a
17 pin or a shirt while working?

18 MR. BALSAM: Objection. Relevance. This witness has
19 already testified that she was an outspoken supporter of the
20 Union. What she wore is not relevant.

21 MS. SNELLING: Okay. I -- I wouldn't agree with the
22 outspoken characterization of her Union activity.

23 JUDGE RINGLER: I'll -- I'll permit the question.

24 MS. SNELLING: Thank you, Your Honor.

25 JUDGE RINGLER: Go ahead. So the question was,

1 beyond a pin or a Union t-shirt, did you wear anything else to
2 indicate support of the Union?

3 MS. SNELLING: Yes.

4 BY MS. SNELLING:

5 A. No, I did not.

6 Q. Okay. Thank you. And Megan, I think you mentioned that
7 you put in your two weeks towards the end of June, and then
8 after you put in your two weeks, the lobby closed on July 3rd,
9 because you closed it, when you closed the lobby, were you
10 strike that.

11 MS. SNELLING: Sorry, Your Honor. Can I take one
12 moment?

13 JUDGE RINGLER: Take a moment.

14 MS. SNELLING: Yeah.

15 BY MS. SNELLING:

16 Q. After you put in your two weeks, how would you describe
17 your work ethic after you put in your two weeks at Starbucks?

18 MR. BALSAM: Objection, relevance.

19 MS. SNELLING: Your Honor, Respondent asked Megan if
20 she would have any incentive to close the lobby and go against
21 Starbucks standard after she testified that she put it in her
22 two weeks. So I would like to, not to testify to her actually
23 how she worked after she put in her two weeks.

24 JUDGE RINGLER: I'll sustain the objection.

25 MS. SNELLING: Okay.

1 JUDGE RINGLER: I mean, they rehire. Right. That --
2 that may say something right?

3 MS. SNELLING: Yes.

4 BY MS. SNELLING:

5 Q. Okay. And Megan, after you put in your two weeks, did you
6 actually leave after two weeks?

7 A. No, I did not.

8 Q. Okay. And were you disciplined after I close the lobby?

9 A. No, I was not.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. To my knowledge.

12 Q. Okay. And just to clarify, on July 3rd, how many
13 employees or what shift were you working that day?

14 A. I was working the opening shift.

15 Q. Okay. And so what time did that shift start?

16 A. 5:00 a.m.

17 Q. Okay. And so when you started at 5:00 a.m., how many
18 people were scheduled to work?

19 A. Probably at that time, in my morning shift I was probably
20 supposed to have a total of seven people throughout that
21 morning.

22 Q. Okay. And how many people reported to work that day?

23 A. Probably only four.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Maybe five.

1 Q. Okay. And was that including yourself?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. And so you mentioned that later it reduced to
4 three. At what point did it reduce to three employees?

5 A. Probably reduced to three around 11:00 or 11:30. Because
6 that's normally when morning people would leave.

7 Q. Okay. And you testified on cross that because of prior
8 experience you decided to close the lobby. What are those
9 prior experiences that you were referring to?

10 MR. BALSAM: Objection. Asked and answered. There
11 was one experience that she testified --

12 JUDGE RINGLER: Sustained.

13 MR. BALSAM: Which is questionable. I passed.

14 MS. SNELLING: Okay.

15 JUDGE RINGLER: I'll sustain the objection.

16 BY MS. SNELLING:

17 Q. Is there any specific conversation that you recall that
18 led you to believe that you would close the lobby on July 3rd?

19 MR. BALSAM: Objection. Asked and answered.

20 JUDGE RINGLER: Let me hear your question again.

21 MS. SNELLING: This was brought back up again on
22 cross with, you know, asking Ms. Ms. Gillen why she thought
23 that she could close the lobby, and so were there any
24 conversations that you had with managers that led you to
25 believe you could close the lobby on July 3rd?

1 MR. BALSAM: Objection. Asked and answered.

2 JUDGE RINGLER: Yeah. That -- that was asked and
3 answered on direct.

4 MS. SNELLING: Okay. Okay. That's fine.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: I -- I just have a question, a point
6 that I -- I want to clarify, and it might be in the record. It
7 -- it might not be. With respect to the -- the call where you
8 sought permission to stop the mobile order, what time did you
9 make that call about?

10 THE WITNESS: I probably made that call sometime
11 between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. most likely.

12 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. And you might very well have
13 said it, but I'm not seeing it in my notes, so, okay, so mobile
14 order call about, you said 8:30?

15 THE WITNESS: Yeah, probably about 8:30 or 9:00 a.m.

16 JUDGE RINGLER: And so you folks were open. I -- I
17 guess what time was the store open?

18 THE WITNESS: 5:30 a.m.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: 5:30 a.m. So you were open from
20 5:30, 8:30 and you allowed mobile ordering then?

21 THE WITNESS: Correct.

22 JUDGE RINGLER: So what -- what changed that you
23 thought like you couldn't handle?

24 THE WITNESS: I do know -- one of -- I definitely had
25 a call off that day, if not two call offs. They were probably

1 people who were supposed to come in sometime between 9:00 and
2 11:00. And then I also had one of my 8:00 o'clock not show up.

3 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Okay. All right. Thank you.

4 THE WITNESS: I only call to have mobile shut off if
5 -- if we like, desperately needed it.

6 JUDGE RINGLER: Alright, thanks.

7 THE WITNESS: Correct.

8 JUDGE RINGLER: Counsel, are you squared away on your
9 redirect or do you have any more questions?

10 MR. SNELLING: A couple more questions.

11 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. That's fine.

12 BY MS. SNELLING:

13 Q. So Megan, remind us your reasons for why you thought you
14 could close the lobby on July 3rd?

15 MR. BALSAM: Objection. This has been asked and
16 answered, sustained in different ways.

17 JUDGE RINGLER: Sustained. We've covered that.

18 MS. SNELLING: Okay.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: In great detail on her direct.

20 MR. GOODE: Okay. Judge, I -- if I, that was called
21 into question on cross examination. She stated one basis on
22 direct on cross the record got muddled because she gave a
23 different answer about the basis. So that needs to be
24 clarified.

25 JUDGE RINGLER: I -- I'm satisfied that it's been

1 clarified at this point.

2 MS. SNELLING: Okay. I have no further questions,
3 Your Honor.

4 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Anything on Recross, just go
5 ahead.

6 MR. BALSAM: I think just a --

7 RECROSS EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. BALSAM:

9 Q. You testified on redirect, you couldn't think of a single
10 situation other than the individual we spoke about that was
11 sent home for the ice bin?

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. The question that was presented to you was that had anyone
14 -- have you sent anyone else home who had left the ice bin
15 open? On one occasion, you said? No. With this particular
16 part that you sent home had left the ice bin open on more than
17 three occasions, correct? And in fact, there was four?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Okay. So there has been no other partner that you -- that
20 you were supervising but left the iceman open on than four more
21 occasions, correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And just going back to your affidavit you wrote in
24 paragraph 6 of your affidavit, I remember telling Sam we did
25 not do this because there is not enough people to manage the

1 store. I told Sam I wanted to close the lobby. He didn't say
2 anything at this time because he was so busy helping customers.
3 Is the reason why you told Sam that you wanted to close the
4 store is because Sam was responsible for the story at the time?

5 MS. SNELLING: Objection. Beyond the scope and
6 redirect.

7 JUDGE RINGLER: Sustained. You don't have to answer.
8 You're squared away. Okay. Set as well?

9 MR. HAYES: One moment, Your Honor.

10 MS. SNELLING: Actually --

11 MR. HAYES: Your Honor, I have one question.

12 JUDGE RINGLER: Sure.

13 FURTHER REDIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. HAYES:

15 Q. Megan, you testified about the person you sent home over
16 the ice bin. Do you remember that?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Would you have sent that person home if the three strike
19 policy hadn't been in place?

20 MR. BALSAM: Objection, calls for speculation.

21 JUDGE RINGLER: Overruled. I think it gets to the,
22 the heart of the application of the policy. She can answer
23 that.

24 BY MR. HAYES:

25 A. No.

1 MR. HAYES: Nothing further.

2 JUDGE RINGLER: Now, you said definitively. No. Why
3 -- why not?

4 THE WITNESS: I -- but Hannah was there and so she
5 was the one, she's like, have you, how many times have you
6 talked to Brittany about this? When I told her four she's
7 like, I think you should send her home so.

8 JUDGE RINGLER: Anything on that basis, Counsel?

9 MR. HAYES: It's fine. No, it's fine Judge.

10 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. All right, thank you very much
11 for your testimony. You're excused. Please do not discuss
12 your testimony with anyone. You can just turn them over. So
13 of course you have another witness, but we've been on the
14 record for a bit. So why don't we take a -- just a short break
15 here. We'll start again at 11:05.

16 MS. SNELLING: Thank you.

17 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. With your next witness.

18 MR. BALSAM: Thank you, judge.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Thank you as well. Thanks.

20 (Brief recess at 10:54 a.m./ Reconvened at 11:05 a.m.)

21 JUDGE RINGLER: On the record. So who do we have for
22 our next witness?

23 MS. SNELLING: The General Counsel calls Rachel Cohen
24 to the stand.

25 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. And to start off, please

1 spell your name for us. First and last.

2 THE WITNESS: So, R-A-C-H-E-L, and then last name is
3 C-O-H-E-N.

4 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. Can you please raise your
5 right hand?

6 Whereupon,

7 RACHEL COHEN,
8 was called as a witness having been previously duly sworn, was
9 examined and testified as follows:

10 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. And what complaint
11 paragraphs is Rachel Cohen going to testify about?

12 MS. SNELLING: Okay. It's quite a few, so.

13 JUDGE RINGLER: All right.

14 MS. SNELLING: Complaint section C, 6(C).

15 JUDGE RINGLER: I'm sorry, I'm sorry. You said C
16 six?

17 MS. SNELLING: Sorry. Yes.

18 MR. GOODE: 6(c).

19 MS. SNELLING: 6(c), I'm sorry, Your Honor.

20 JUDGE RINGLER: 6(c). Okay, 6(c)

21 MS. SNELLING: Okay, 6 (c), D, E, f, G. And then I,

22 JUDGE RINGLER: okay. Okay. Let me just catch up
23 there. D, E, F, G and I already.

24 MS. SNELLING: Okay. And then complaint section 7(A)
25 through C. And then complaint section 11(A) through D. And

1 then complaint section 12 (A)through D.

2 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Give me just a moment. I'm
3 just going to take a quick look at our complaint paragraphs and
4 then we'll get going. There's a lot of stuff, so this might
5 take me a second.

6 MS. SNELLING: That's okay, Your Honor.

7 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. I'm ready when you are.

8 MS. SNELLING: Okay.

9 DIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY MS. SNELLING:

11 Q. Hi Rachel.

12 A. Hi.

13 Q. How are you?

14 A. I'm well, how are you?

15 Q. Good. Rachel, what are your pronouns?

16 A. She, her.

17 Q. have you previously testified in an NLRB hearing?

18 A. Yes, I have.

19 Q. Okay. When?

20 A. Summer of '22.

21 Q. Okay. And where do you currently work in?

22 A. I currently work for Lift free Shamen Brinkam it's a law
23 firm.

24 Q. Okay. And what do you do there?

25 A. I am a law firm paralegal.

1 Q. Okay. Did you ever work for Starbucks?

2 A. I did, yes.

3 Q. Okay. When did you work for Starbucks?

4 A. I worked there starting in November of 2011 to November of
5 2022.

6 Q. Okay. And what store did you work at while employed by
7 Starbucks?

8 A. I started off at the Delaware and Kenmore location and
9 then transferred to the Sheridan and North Bailey location.

10 Q. And what position did you hold when you worked for
11 Starbucks?

12 A. I started as a barista and then was promoted to shift
13 supervisor.

14 Q. Okay. When were you promoted to shift supervisor?

15 A. I want to say about 2015 or '16.

16 Q. Okay. And when you worked for Starbucks, how many hours a
17 week did you typically work?

18 A. Between 29 to 35.

19 Q. And what days did you typically work?

20 A. Usually, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

21 Q. And what shift did you typically work?

22 A. The mid shift. So anywhere between 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

23 Q. And are you familiar with the Union Workers United?

24 A. Yes, I am.

25 Q. And when did you become familiar with Workers United?

1 A. That was in 2021, later in year, around August of
2 September.

3 Q. Okay. And how did you become familiar with Workers
4 United?

5 A. I was approached about the idea that Starbucks might be
6 trying to form a Union.

7 Q. Okay. And who approached you?

8 A. Jaz.

9 Q. And what's Jaz's last name?

10 A. Brisack, Brisack.

11 Q. Brisack?

12 A. Yeah. Thank you.

13 Q. Thank you. And did there come a time when you decided to
14 support the union publicly?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. When was that?

17 A. It was in October of 2012.

18 Q. Okay. And how did you show your Union support?

19 A. My store and myself went on TV and announced we were
20 unionizing.

21 Q. Okay. And I guess what channel did you go on to announce
22 that? Or -- or what, uh, TV channel did you go?

23 A. I think channel 247, the local news channels were there.

24 Q. Okay. Did you show your support at work?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. And how?

2 A. I wore pins and help handout forms for people to express
3 their intend to want to unionize.

4 Q. Okay. And did -- did you ever participate in any strikes?

5 A. Yes, I did.

6 Q. Okay. When?

7 A. I participated in my first strike on July 8th, 2022
8 through July 9th. 2022.

9 Q. Okay. And what was that strike for?

10 A. Just the unfair practices that were going on within my
11 store, we had a -- a small contract as we were there for a
12 remodel for our -- our old store, Sheridan and Bailey, and some
13 of the contract agreements had not been being met.

14 Q. Okay. And so did -- did your store, the Sheridan and
15 Bailey location unionize?

16 A. Yes, we did.

17 Q. Okay. And when was that?

18 A. March of 2022.

19 Q. And did you hold any positions in the union?

20 A. I would say that I was being considered one of the Union
21 reps for our store and I was on the bargaining committee, yes.

22 Q. Okay. And who else was on the bargaining committee with
23 you? Is anyone?

24 A. There was quite few people from my store. I had Sam
25 Amato, I had Naval Brian, Colleen McCuen, Daniel Rohas. I

1 think those was almost everyone from our store.

2 Q. And has the employer ever met with the bargaining
3 committee?

4 MR. BALSAM: Objection, relevance.

5 MS. SNELLING: Your Honor, it's going to get into
6 kind of the transfer from the one store to the other, and just
7 kind of background about that and then --

8 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. I'll allow, okay, go ahead.
9 You may answer.

10 BY MS. SNELLING:

11 A. Yes, they did.

12 Q. Okay. And when was that?

13 A. So there were two instances where we met. One was for a
14 smaller contract to transfer to another store during our
15 remodel, and that was on May 26th.

16 Q. Of what year?

17 A. Of 20 -- 2022. Excuse me.

18 Q. Okay. And how -- how did the May 26th bargaining session
19 take place?

20 A. Via Zoom.

21 Q. Okay. And who was at that bargaining session from the
22 employer?

23 MR. BALSAM: Objection, relevance.

24 MS. SNELLING: Your Honor, I'm laying Foundation for,
25 you know, what was discussed in the bargaining session that

1 will then lead to later conversation.

2 JUDGE RINGLER: I'll permit. Go ahead.

3 BY MS. SNELLING:

4 A. Sure, Alan Model was there, Mallory Cambine (Phonetic) and
5 I believe Katherine Kelly (Phonetic) was there.

6 Q. Okay. And who was there representing the store employees?

7 A. Myself, Sam Amato, Jennifer Beck (Phonetic), Mabel Brian
8 (Phonetic). I think that was everyone from our store.

9 Q. Okay. And what specifically did you dis -- or strike
10 that, did you reach an -- an agreement?

11 A. Not the first time, no.

12 Q. Okay. Did you ever reach an agreement about that
13 bargaining session?

14 A. Yes, we did.

15 Q. Okay. And what was the agreement about?

16 A. The agreement was about the transfer of all of my store
17 partners that shared into the Tonawanda location for the
18 remodel and what would be allowed to be done while we were
19 there.

20 Q. Okay. And was this a written agreement?

21 A. Yes, it was.

22 Q. Okay. And did you ever receive a copy of this written
23 agreement?

24 A. Yes, I did.

25 Q. And if I showed it to you, would you recognize it?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I'm distributing what has been marked as GC Exhibit 44.
3 Rachel, do you recognize this?

4 A. Yes, I do.

5 Q. What is this?

6 A. This is the contract agreement that my bargaining
7 committee as well as the employer came to agree with.

8 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-44 identified.)

9 Q. Okay. And do you see your signature somewhere on this
10 agreement?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. And it looks like it was typed, so is this an
13 electronic signature?

14 A. Yes. It is.

15 Q. Okay. And is this a true and accurate copy of the
16 agreement that you reached with the employer?

17 A. Yes, it is.

18 MS. SNELLING: I move GCs Exhibit 44 into evidence.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: Any objection to 44?

20 MR. BALSAM: One moment, Judge? Voir dire?

21 JUDGE RINGLER: Go ahead.

22 VOIR DIRE

23 BY MR. BALSAM:

24 Q. Ms. Cohen, how did you receive this document?

25 A. Email?

1 Q. From who?

2 A. From Alan Model and Katherine Cohen.

3 Q. And when did you receive this email -- email from Alan
4 Model and Kathrine Cohen?

5 A. June 2nd.

6 Q. Do you have a copy of that email?

7 A. I'm sure I do still in my email, yes.

8 Q. And were there any modifications made to the version of
9 the document you received from Alan Model and Katherine Cohen?

10 A. No.

11 Q. This is fact that you received by email from Alan Model
12 and Kathrine Cohen?

13 A. Yes.

14 MR. BALSAM: No, objection, Judge.

15 JUDGE RINGLER: Admitted on 44.

16 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-44 admitted into evidence.)

17 BY MS. SNELLING:

18 Q. Okay. And Megan, you can set this document aside for
19 right now. Okay. So after this agreement went into place, did
20 Sheridan and Bailey employees then transfer to the Tonawanda
21 location?

22 A. Yes, we did.

23 Q. Okay. And so when did that happen?

24 A. That happened June 6th.

25 Q. Okay. And so what was customer traffic like when the --

1 when employees first arrived at the Tonawanda location?

2 A. It was very quiet, minimum. No one knew the store was
3 opened. It was not updated on any apps, any Google maps that
4 the store is open.

5 Q. Okay. And so at any point did the customer traffic
6 change?

7 A. Yes. So about three weeks into our stay there everything
8 started to get updated, the mobile order app and Google Maps
9 was updated, that we were open and we started to pick up very
10 quickly.

11 Q. Okay. And so how -- how would you describe staffing for
12 that increase in customer traffic?

13 MR. BALSAM: Objection. Are we talking about a
14 particular timeframe? Days, week?

15 MS. SNELLING: I -- I just said when the -- when the
16 customer traffic picked up and Megan indicated --

17 JUDGE RINGLER: Yeah, I think we're talking about
18 three weeks later. You said the traffic picked up?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes. So you comment on staffing at
20 that time.

21 BY MS. SNELLING:

22 A. Sure. So the staffing around the three week mark hadn't
23 changed much from the staffing at the beginning of our time
24 there. We just did not have enough bodies to keep up with the
25 traffic that was coming in.

1 Q. Okay. And did you ever address your concerns about the
2 short staffing with your manager at the time?

3 A. Yes, I did.

4 Q. Okay. And who was your manager?

5 A. Hannah Stachowiack.

6 Q. Okay. And when did you address this with Hannah?

7 A. I want to say right around the time that it started to
8 pick up. So maybe around that three or four week period.

9 Q. Okay. At the end of June?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And where did this conversation with Hannah take place?

12 A. Just on the floor at the Tonawanda store.

13 Q. Okay. And how did -- was anyone else present for this
14 conversation?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay. How did this with Hannah begin?

17 A. I approached her, and told her that from what I could see
18 as amid there were a lot of opportunities that I both seen were
19 lacking, where the drive-through times are too high or the
20 customers were waiting for too long. I had to close down the
21 lobby many times on my shifts, in this past two weeks due to
22 short staffing. And I asked her if we were able to add an
23 extra person or call people in, or even have people stay late
24 just to cover all of the traffic.

25 Q. Okay. And what, if anything, did she say to that?

1 A. She said she was not allowed to make any scheduling
2 adjustments because we did not have a contract.

3 Q. Okay. And what did she mean -- strike that? I -- what
4 did she mean by scheduling adjustments?

5 MR. BALSAM: Objection, false speculation. She can't
6 testify about what someone else thought.

7 JUDGE RINGLER: Sustained.

8 BY MS. SNELLING:

9 Q. Okay. And --

10 JUDGE RINGLER: Did she say anything else?

11 THE WITNESS: No. Just that she wasn't allowed to
12 make any changes to any -- any availability, any -- any extra
13 labor hours because we didn't have contract.

14 BY MS. SNELLING:

15 Q. Okay. And did she say what she meant extra labor hours?

16 A. Just that she couldn't add people to the schedule. It was
17 based on sales and based on our -- the -- we didn't have a
18 contract, so she wasn't allowed to.

19 Q. Okay. And in your experience, Rachel, how did short
20 staffing impact the store at that time?

21 A. We are hold to a certain standards when it comes to out
22 the window times and you know, beverage routines and making
23 sure things are done timely. We were not able to fulfill the
24 Starbucks standard for these times with the staffing that we
25 had, I was also unable to run many breaks.

1 Myself included not taking many breaks those few
2 weeks just to keep things afloat. We also would frequently
3 have to turn off channels for ordering for customers, which
4 caused a lot of chaos so.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: What channels?

6 THE WITNESS: So we were able to turn off mobile
7 orders so people couldn't like, order ahead of time. There
8 were times when we had to, for safety reasons, to shut the
9 lobby down and go drive through, only if it was just me and one
10 other person. So those kinds of areas.

11 BY MS. SNELLING:

12 Q. Okay. And so did you speak with Hannah about store
13 operations again?

14 A. Yes, I did.

15 Q. Okay. And when did that happen?

16 A. That was -- I want to say the beginning of July.

17 Q. Okay. And what was it about specifically?

18 A. It was specifically about the July 4th holiday.

19 Q. Okay. And where did you have this conversation with
20 Hannah?

21 A. This was also in the Tonawanda store on the floor.

22 Q. Okay. And how did this conversation start?

23 A. I approached her about the upcoming holiday again, just
24 asked her if there was any plan to shut the store down early
25 for -- for July 4th.

1 Q. Okay. And what if anything, did she say?

2 A. She said again, she was not allowed to modify store hours
3 because there was no contract, even if it was a holiday.

4 Q. Okay. And what, if anything, did you say to that?

5 A. I told her that I couldn't remember a time when July 4th
6 was not a half business day for Starbucks in my -- in my
7 duration, which had been about 10 years at this point. That we
8 had never stayed open in any of my stores the full day just to
9 give people the night off. And she said that there's nothing
10 she could do. Oh, well.

11 Q. And besides mentioning the contract, did she say anything
12 else about the Union at that time?

13 A. She said that this was our decision that we made and we
14 would just have to deal with it.

15 Q. Okay. And had she said that statement to you prior?

16 A. I know that she had said it to another partner, she had
17 said it to me at one point after a conversation about my
18 frustration with the lack of a big store contract. We had had
19 a conversation on the floor about how we weren't making any
20 progress with Alan and bargaining sessions.

21 And she said that this is the decision that we made
22 you're just going to have to deal with it. And then she asked
23 to see all of my correspondence between Alan and myself.

24 Q. Okay. And correspondence about what?

25 A. It was mainly just myself and Sam Amato, asking Alan to

1 meet us at the bargaining table.

2 Q. Okay. And how did you ask to meet at the bargaining
3 table?

4 A. Via email.

5 Q. Okay. Okay. And to the best of your knowledge when did
6 the store close on July 4th?

7 A. To the best of my knowledge, it stayed open the rest of
8 the night. I -- I left around 1:00 o'clock that day so I
9 didn't see.

10 Q. Okay. And so to the best of your knowledge, did the
11 employer bargain with the Union over closing the -- over not
12 closing the store early on July 4th?

13 A. I'm sorry. Can you ask it one more time?

14 Q. Yes. Okay. So did the employer bargain with the Union
15 about keeping the store open for the full amount of hours on
16 July 4th?

17 A. No.

18 Q. And Rachel, I'm going to backtrack just slightly.

19 A. Sure.

20 Q. First conversation that you had with Hannah about the
21 third week of June?

22 A. Sure.

23 Q. Did she say anything about the Union at that time as well?

24 A. Just that this was our decision that we made and we had to
25 deal with the consequences of it.

1 Q. Okay. And that was surrounding the staffing at the store?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Did Hannah ever institute any policies while she
4 was your store manager?

5 A. Yes, she did.

6 Q. Okay. And when did Hannah become your store manager?

7 A. She became her store manager, I want to say around
8 February or March of 2022.

9 Q. Okay. And so what new policies did Hannah institute?

10 A. She started the three strike rule.

11 Q. Okay. And when was that rule introduced?

12 A. That was introduced, I want to say around our third,
13 fourth week at the Tonawanda store.

14 Q. Okay. And where did Hannah introduce this?

15 A. We had a shift meeting, so all the shifts and -- and the
16 store manager would meet have discussions and she told us about
17 this new policy or this new rule.

18 Q. Okay. And when you say shifts what do you mean?

19 A. So just the like shift supervisors, kind of like the
20 committee managers. I guess the people that are in charge of
21 the floor.

22 Q. And at this meeting, did she describe the rule?

23 A. Yes, she did.

24 Q. Okay. And what was the rule?

25 A. So the rule was if a partner committed the same three

1 infractions, we had to send -- the shifts, had to send them
2 home.

3 Q. Okay. And can you give an example of an infraction?

4 A. Sure. So leaving the ice bin open three times, or not
5 putting a rag into the buckets, the sanitary bucket three
6 times.

7 Q. Okay. And based on your experience, Megan, or not Megan,
8 excuse me, Rachel how would you have handled individuals small
9 infractions in the past?

10 A. So it would be very quick like on the floor, just to make
11 sure you put this away. If it -- it didn't get any better, I
12 would pull them off the floor and just talk to the partner if
13 it continued to not. It would be a conversation between the
14 manager, myself and the partner. So just a lot of like,
15 internally kind of trying to problem solve.

16 Q. Okay. Would you send individuals home for those small
17 fractions?

18 A. No.

19 Q. And had you heard of the rule prior to Hannah introducing
20 it in June?

21 A. No, I had not.

22 Q. And did you ever speak with other members of management
23 about this rule?

24 A. Yes, I did.

25 Q. Who did you speak with?

1 A. So we at this time had a new district manager, Sebastian
2 Garcia. He came into our, the Tonawanda store one day just to
3 do an observation, and I asked him to stay after, and we spoke
4 outside of the store about the rule.

5 Q. Okay. And when did you speak with him about this?

6 A. I want to say about a week or two after the rule was put
7 into place.

8 Q. Okay.

9 JUDGE RINGLER: Which was?

10 THE WITNESS: Maybe the 2nd or 3rd week of July.

11 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

12 BY MS. SNELLING:

13 Q. And how did this conversation start with Sebastian?

14 A. So after I asked. What's very casual, ask what's up. And
15 I told him my concerns about the rule, how I wasn't comfortable
16 sending people home over such minor infractions. Also, I
17 wasn't familiar with this rule in the -- the handbook. And --
18 and he asked me what rule was it? What -- what does it entail?
19 And I told him, and he said he had never heard of this. He
20 would look into it for me, but he's pretty sure it wasn't any
21 sort of written down policy.

22 Q. And Rachel in your experience with this rule, what was the
23 impact of this rule on the store?

24 A. It caused a lot of resentment between the baristas and the
25 shifts. There was already -- there's already some power

1 issues, I think, regardless where you work, but it -- it
2 definitely caused a rift and it was difficult because one of
3 the parts of the rule was that if we didn't send people home we
4 would get written up. And so we was kind of us, or it was, it
5 turned into we versus them situation and it was -- it just
6 created a really bad environment.

7 Q. Okay. And when you say we would be sent home, who are you
8 referring to?

9 A. Oh, the shift supervisors.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. And so when you say we versus them, who are you referring
13 to?

14 A. So the shift supervisors versus the baristas that we would
15 be implementing this rule on.

16 Q. Okay. And to the implementation of this rule. Did the
17 employer give notice to the Union about the implementation?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Okay. And prior to this, did the employer bargain over
20 the implementation of this rule?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Megan, you mentioned earlier that you went on strike on
23 July 9th. Was this when you were working at the Tonawanda
24 store?

25 A. So if we started July 8th, went back July 9th. But yes,

1 it was at the Tonawanda store.

2 Q. Okay. And, prior to going on strike, did you give notice
3 to the employer about this strike?

4 A. Yes, we did.

5 Q. Okay. And how so?

6 A. Via email.

7 Q. Okay. And was there an attachment in that email?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. And if I showed you the email that you sent, would
10 you recognize it?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And also if I showed you the attachment, would you
13 recognize it?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. Now I am distributing GC Exhibit 45 and also GC
16 Exhibit 20 already put into evidence.

17 JUDGE RINGLER: This is --

18 MS. SNELLING: That's 20.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: GC 20?

20 MS. SNELLING: Yeah. That's already into evidence.

21 JUDGE RINGLER: All right.

22 MS. SNELLING: Is Respondent, does your -- the
23 letter, is it labeled for you because I think I may have
24 forgot.

25 MR. BALSAM: Yes.

1 MS. SNELLING: Okay. Perfect.

2 BY MS. SNELLING:

3 Q. And looking at GC Exhibit 45, Rachel, do you recognize
4 that?

5 A. Yes, I do.

6 Q. Okay. And what is this?

7 A. So, 45 is the -- the email that I've sent right before the
8 strike.

9 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-45 identified.)

10 Q. Okay. And who did you send it to?

11 A. Howard Jones, Sebastian Garcia, and the district manager
12 and our manager Hannah, that's the US email.

13 Q. Okay. And this email has a date and timestamp?

14 A. Sure.

15 A. Is that date and timestamp correct as to when you sent the
16 email?

17 A. Yes, it is.

18 Q. Okay. And is your email on this -- this document?

19 A. Yes, it is.

20 Q. Okay. Where is it?

21 A. Excuse me. It's right next to the date, next to the sent
22 and the little file.

23 Q. Okay. Great. And is this a true and accurate copy of the
24 email that you sent on July 8th, announcing the strike?

25 A. Yes. It is.

1 MS. SNELLING: Okay. So I move GC exhibit 45 into
2 evidence.

3 JUDGE RINGLER: Any objection to 45?

4 MR. BALSAM: May I ask just a quick voir dire?

5 JUDGE RINGLER: Yes. Go ahead.

6 VOIR DIRE

7 BY MR. BALSAM:

8 Q. Just so I'm clear, GC Exhibit 20 is the attachment that's
9 reflected in GC Exhibit 45?

10 A. Yes.

11 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. So we'll admit 45, 20 was
12 previously admitted.

13 (General Counsel's Exhibit 45 admitted into
14 evidence.)

15 BY MS. SNELLING:

16 Q. Okay. And then just to clarify, the GC Exhibit 20, is
17 that an accurate copy to the best of your recollection, Rachel,
18 of what you attached?

19 A. Yes, it is.

20 Q. Okay. After the strike, Rachel, did a manager speak to
21 you about the strike?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Who?

24 A. Hannah, the -- my store manager.

25 Q. And you can put those exhibits to the side.

1 A. I'll put them.

2 Q. Okay. And when did you speak with her?

3 A. July 9th, the following day.

4 Q. Okay. And where did you have this conversation?

5 A. In the store. So she -- I opened the next day and she was
6 like the next person in, so right there in the day.

7 Q. Okay. And was anyone else present for this conversation?

8 A. My other opener, Renee Hedgemanskiy was there. She wasn't
9 in the actual conversation, but it was just us three in the
10 store.

11 Q. Okay. And how did this conversation start?

12 A. Hannah approached me regarding the strike from the day
13 before.

14 Q. Okay. And what, if anything, did she say?

15 A. She told me that the -- she already knew about the strike
16 and we should have given her more notice, so that she could
17 schedule people who didn't want to be involved at different
18 stores. And she also asked if we were -- if we had stolen
19 pounds of coffee to give away to customers because she had also
20 heard that we were giving away pounds coffee at the strike.

21 Q. Okay. And, so going back to -- so she can know who
22 doesn't want to participate did she say anything else in -- in
23 reference to that?

24 A. No, just that she -- she already kne.

25 MR. BALSAM: Objection. Move to strike. She --

1 she's answering beyond the scope of the question.

2 JUDGE RINGLER: Overruled. You can answer the
3 question. Do you want to hear it again?

4 THE WITNESS: Sure. Thank you.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: Go ahead.

6 BY MS. SNELLING:

7 Q. So when she said so that she can know who isn't striking
8 what -- what if anything else did she say?

9 A. Just that partners, um, that didn't want to participate,
10 wanted to be scheduled elsewhere and that -- that if she knew
11 ahead of time that she could have scheduled them elsewhere.

12 Q. Okay -- okay. And then you also mentioned something about
13 stealing coffee?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So was that mentioned in this conversation?

16 A. So she approached me twice in -- in the following days or
17 about the strike. So I know there was a conversation on the
18 11th where she had mentioned the scene that somebody had seen
19 partners in the store the day of the strike. She also asked if
20 we had stolen coffee to give to customers, during the strike.

21 Q. Okay. And so where did she ask you this?

22 A. This was all in the Tonawanda store.

23 Q. Okay. And was anyone else around for that conversation?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Okay. And so how did she start this conversation?

1 A. So --

2 JUDGE RINGLER: This is the conversation on July 11th
3 we're referring to?

4 THE WITNESS: Yes. Yes.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: Sure.

6 BY MS. SNELLING:

7 A. So on the 11th she pulled me off the floor and spoke to me
8 privately at a table and asked if there was anybody in the
9 store on the day of the strike. She said somebody had driven
10 by and seen people inside of the store, and I told her I was
11 there from the beginning to the end of the strike and no one
12 stepped foot inside the entire time.

13 Q. Okay. And what if anything, did you say about the stolen
14 coffee?

15 A. I told her that we all used our mark outs to give the
16 coffee away.

17 Q. And what is a marked out, Rachel?

18 A. So once a week at Starbucks, employees can mark out a
19 pound of coffee instant little beer packet, a tea and take it
20 home for free.

21 Q. Okay. And is there any restriction on what an employee
22 can do with a mark out?

23 A. Yes. So really the only restriction is you can't resell
24 it. Like, or to even a family member, you can't get money for
25 it.

1 Q. Okay. Had you ever given the mark outs away before?

2 A. Yes, our Sheridan and Bailey. We donated ours to
3 Journey's end or we donated to the Little Bridge, after the top
4 shooting. We all gathered markouts for that so a lot of
5 different charities -- and moving to donate to.

6 Q. Okay. And was your manager aware of these donations?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. And just to clarify, what did you do with the
9 markouts of the strike?

10 A. I gave it to customers who were upset that we were closed.

11 Q. Okay. Rachel, do you know of someone by the name of Sam
12 Amato?

13 A. Yes, I do.

14 Q. Okay. And how do you know him?

15 A. We worked together as shift supervisor at Sheridan and
16 Bailey.

17 Q. Okay. Does he still work for Starbucks?

18 A. No, he does not.

19 Q. Okay. And why not?

20 A. He was terminated.

21 Q. Okay. And prior to his termination, did the employer
22 provide, provide notice of the intent to terminate Sam?

23 A. Yes. Oh, I'm sorry. Can you ask it again?

24 Q. Yeah. Did the employer provide notice prior to the
25 termination of Sam that they would terminate him?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay. And did the employer bargain with the union over
3 Sam's termination?

4 A. No.

5 Q. And Rachel, did you ever work with someone named Tatiayna
6 Gurskiy?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 Q. Okay. And where did you work with her?

9 A. At Sheridan and Bailey and Tonawanda.

10 Q. Okay. And how frequently would you work with her?

11 A. I would say, I work with her maybe four or five hours a
12 week.

13 Q. And what was your experience working with Tatiayna?

14 MR. BALSAM: Objection. Relevance.

15 JUDGE RINGLER: This is the same relevance from
16 before. Objection noted for the record. But I've permitted it
17 before, so I'll permit you testify.

18 BY MS. SNELLING:

19 A. Can you just ask me one more time?

20 Q. Yes. So, what was your experience working with Tatiayna?

21 A. So, we did work frequently, but I never had any issues. I
22 would open on the weekends and take over her shifts from the
23 night before and have no issues. She's rarely the topic or
24 center of any drama, follows the rules, nobody disliked her. I
25 didn't dislike her. It was overall a good experience -- a good

1 peer-peer experience.

2 Q. Okay. And to the best of your knowledge, does she still
3 work for Starbucks?

4 A. No.

5 Q. And why not?

6 A. She was terminated on October 30th.

7 Q. Okay. And after her termination, do you know if she
8 appealed her termination?

9 A. She did, yes.

10 Q. Okay. And how do you know?

11 A. She asked me to write her a letter of support.

12 Q. Okay. And if I showed you -- or actually how did you --
13 did you actually write a letter of support?

14 A. Yes, I did.

15 Q. Okay. And did you send it to her?

16 A. I did, yes.

17 Q. How did you send it to her?

18 A. Via email.

19 Q. Okay. And if I showed you the email, would you recognize
20 it?

21 A. Yes, I would.

22 Q. Okay. And if I showed you the statement that you wrote
23 for Tatiayna, would you recognize it?

24 A. Yes.

25 MS. SNELLING: I am distributing what is marked as GC

1 Exhibit 46 and GC Exhibit 47.

2 (GC Exhibit 46 and GC Exhibit 47 identified)

3 Q. And, looking at GCs exhibit 46, do you recognize that,
4 Rachel?

5 A. Yes, I do.

6 Q. And what is GC Exhibit 46.

7 A. This is my email to Tatiayna for here appeal.

8 Q. And there's a date marked on -- or is this a screenshot of
9 the email?

10 A. Yes. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And is there's a date up at the top right corner?
12 Is that the day in which that you sent this email?

13 A. Yes. Yes.

14 Q. And, how do you know that you sent this to Tati?

15 A. That's my -- I -- that's my email Rachel B. is what I
16 changed my last name to and -- yeah, everything.

17 Q. And in the -- below your name is the -- to and then
18 there's an email, was that Tatiayna's email?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. And so, is this a true and accurate copy of the
21 email that you sent to Tati?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. So, and then turning to GC exhibit 47, in the email
24 it shows you know, a letter in smaller print, it seems. Is --
25 what is GC 47?

1 A. This is my actual written appeal letter for her.

2 Q. Okay. And so, was this attached in the email that we were
3 just looking at?

4 A. Yes, it was. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. And so, who wrote this letter?

6 A. I did.

7 Q. Okay. And is this a true and accurate copy of the letter
8 that you wrote for Tati?

9 A. Yes. Yes.

10 MS. SNELLING: I move GC Exhibit 46 and 47 into
11 evidence.

12 MR. BALSAM: I feel like we're going through deja vu
13 right now. It's the same issue that we have with the last
14 witness. She already justified about the fact that she had no
15 issues with Tatiayna Gersky. This is the same exact type of
16 document that was previously rejected as we develop in this
17 case.

18 JUDGE RINGLER: And -- go ahead counsel. I mean now
19 -- we're now -- I'm assuming -- so this was sent to Tatiayna
20 and then when Tatiayna testifies, I'm assuming that she'll
21 testify that she forwarded this to Starbucks.

22 So, on this one, the same as with GC 43A and B, I'm
23 just going to put it on hold until we get that piece of the
24 testimony and then I'll rule out on it at that point.

25 MS. SNELLING: That works, Your Honor.

1 JUDGE RINGLER: Now, did you observe the event that
2 led to Tatiayna's discharge?

3 THE WITNESS: I was not there.

4 JUDGE RINGLER: You were not there, okay.

5 BY MS. SNELLING:

6 Q. Rachel, I'll go back to -- we're going to talk again about
7 when you spoke with Hannah the day after the July 8th strike.

8 A. Sure.

9 Q. So -- so when she said to give notice of a strike, did she
10 say anything in the future tense about that?

11 A. Just that she could schedule people elsewhere in the
12 future.

13 Q. Okay.

14 MS. SNELLING: Okay. No further questions, Your
15 Honor.

16 JUDGE RINGLER: All right.

17 MR. HAYES: I have a direct, Your Honor.

18 JUDGE RINGLER: Go ahead.

19 DIRECT EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. HAYES:

21 Q. Rachel, You testified about Hannah making comments about
22 you not having a contract.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What did you understand contract to mean?

25 A. What I understood contract to mean for her was a big store

1 contract that we could bargain over. At this time, we did have
2 a contract. We did have the -- this temporary contract. So,
3 I'm assuming she meant a bigger contract.

4 Q. Contract between the union and the company?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And you also testified that Hannah made comments about the
7 workers in your store having made a decision and you dealing
8 with the consequences of that?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. What decision did you understand she was referring to?

11 A. Joining the union.

12 MR. HAYES: Okay. Nothing further Your Honor.

13 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. Affidavits for this
14 witness.

15 MS. SNELLING: Your Honor, Rachel has two affidavits.

16 JUDGE RINGLER: Mm-hmm.

17 MS. SNELLING: One from this -- this case and then
18 also from Buffalo one. Which I think there's going to be very
19 little that's relevant in the first -- in the Buffalo one
20 affidavit. But the one for this case is eight pages and then
21 for Buffalo one it is 20 pages.

22 JUDGE RINGLER: 20 pages. Okay. Why don't we do
23 this, to be a little extra efficient today. So, it's 11:50
24 a.m., we'll take a lunch break, we'll reconvene at 12:50 p.m.
25 and then we'll make it a combo lunch. Look at the affidavit,

1 break from the employer, lunch break for everyone else and take
2 it from there.

3 MR. BALSAM: Judge, can we just go once, make it
4 easier? We have break until one. Make it easier.

5 MR. HAYES: I -- I was actually going to ask in any
6 events - with -- with the -- the letter brief for the index
7 subpoena index issue, if we could potentially take a longer
8 break today, Judge.

9 JUDGE RINGLER: No, no. I'm not going to take the
10 longer break today, so we'll go until 1 O'clock.

11 MR. HAYES: Thank you Judge.

12 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. No, you're welcome.

13 MR. BALSAM: Judge, if it's easier, I can just cross
14 the witness now and we're just going to be released and then we
15 can just take a break. I'm ready to go.

16 JUDGE RINGLER: You're ready to go?

17 MR. BALSAM: I'm ready to go.

18 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. That's the quickest affidavit
19 review in the history of the NRLB.

20 MR. BALSAM: I'll review while I do my questions and
21 then there's any follow base on this. I am just trying to be
22 efficient.

23 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. That sounds good. Thank you.
24 All right.

25 CROSS EXAMINATION

1 BY MR. BALSAM:

2 Q. Good morning.

3 A. Good morning.

4 Q. You testified before that you had to close down the cafe
5 on multiple shifts, correct?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Did you obtain prior management approval before doing
8 that?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you did that because you knew you had to do that,
11 correct?

12 A. Yeah. Just for safety reasons

13 Q. At the time of your conversation with Hannah about the
14 July 4th holiday and your question as to whether or not that
15 day the store would close early. Isn't it true that that
16 location was not in existence prior?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. There was -- there was no past practice at that particular
19 location about the July 4th holiday?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And in -- in terms of your time at Starbucks, I believe
22 you've been at Starbucks since November of 2011, correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. At -- at any point in time, in your time at Starbucks, did
25 July 4th ever been observed as a so-called holiday at

1 Starbucks?

2 A. Yes. It well -- it was a -- a -- considered a federal
3 holiday, so it would be time and a half.

4 Q. But in terms of store average?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Starbucks is -- Starbucks is open on July 4th.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And never -- any modified hours of operation that
9 Starbucks apply for?

10 A. Yes, there was modified hours every year.

11 Q. At what -- at what location?

12 A. So, for my location at the Delaware Kenmore store when I
13 first started, we had modified hours. And when I transferred
14 to Sheridan and Bailey there was modified hours.

15 Q. Not in Tonawanda because there was no prior -- wasn't open
16 prior.

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. And in fact, isn't it true that every single store at
19 Starbucks has different store hours?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And that store hours are dependent on customer traffic,
22 correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And partner availability, correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And so, every store treats their particular store
2 differently from other stores?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You were testifying about the so-called three strike rule
5 that Hannah implemented at your store, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you gave an example of a -- an infraction that Hannah
8 told you about that you were warned implementation of this
9 three-strike rule, and the examples you gave were missing a rag
10 in a bucket or leaving the ice cream open, right?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Any other examples of an infraction that Hannah may have
13 told you would've warranted implementation of the three-strike
14 rule?

15 A. Sure. There was -- if you weren't doing like a -- a
16 customer support cycle completely, like you were going into the
17 lobby and wiping things down every 10 minutes, if you were not
18 cleaning off the steam lawn, very minimal things.

19 If you didn't go outside every 10 minutes, just to make sure
20 the patio was clean. If you weren't engaging with the customer
21 fully or cleaning the trunks, very minimally habitual daily
22 things.

23 Q. But minimal habitual things in isolation, right? So, if
24 you have done that one time it's minimal, but if you do it more
25 than one time, it becomes more drastic. Right?

1 A. I -- I guess -- I mean minimal in like terms of what kind
2 of task it is not --

3 Q. But if you're, for example, doing the same thing
4 incorrectly over multiple periods of time in particular shifts,
5 you would agree that by virtue of doing that, infraction
6 becomes more serious?

7 A. Yes. I agree.

8 Q. And in fact, you testified that in the past, prior to the
9 so-called implementation of a three-strike rule, that you would
10 in fact engage in three different steps, right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. The first being coaching opportunity, which is you as the
13 shift supervisor, having a verbal conversation with the
14 partner, did the incorrect task, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And then the second being, you would take them off the
17 floor and have another conversation?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And then the third being that you would have a
20 conversation with them in front of your store manager?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. At any point in time in the past, have you had a
23 conversation with the partner and the store manager after the
24 person engaged in so-called three different issues of problems
25 on a particular shift?

1 A. No.

2 Q. It never happened before?

3 A. Not -- not with the three. Not with like the three same
4 infractions like the three-strike rule.

5 Q. But on a particular day in the past, prior to the so-
6 called implementation of the three strike, you've had
7 conversations with barista's, yourself and the store manager to
8 discuss multiple infractions that a partner engaged on a
9 particular shift?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. Are you aware if -- if at that point in time a
12 partner received any type of discipline beyond verbal
13 discussion after engaging in three strikes?

14 A. So, I -- I wouldn't know of anyone else's like
15 disciplinary record. I would just know of like a verbal -- if
16 I was involved in the verbal conversation that I would know
17 about any point going further.

18 Q. Okay. But it's possible that after the three so-called
19 before the implementation of the so-called three strikes, if a
20 partner engaged in three infractions a particular day that they
21 could have been practiced?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that would include, but not limited to sending them
24 home?

25 A. I would say that would be -- it would be rare, but not

1 impossible.

2 Q. Now, talking about the sh -- the strike that you went on,
3 on July 9th, there was discussion about the communication that
4 you sent to Starbucks --

5 A. Sure.

6 Q. -- in advance to the strike. How soon before the strike
7 did you provide notice to Starbucks?

8 MR HAYES: Objection. Relevance.

9 MR. BALSAM: Relevance to the issue about the so-
10 called threat that we made about seeking out, getting covered.

11 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Overruled. You can answer.

12 BY BALSAM:

13 A. Oh sure. So, if I can just look at it again. I'm sorry.
14 I think I sent it out at around 4:00 a.m. in the store. The
15 openers were set to go in at 5:30 a.m. So, I would say about
16 an hour and a half notice.

17 Q. And in your -- in your experience, is that enough time to
18 provide coverage to a store that's going to be shut down?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How so?

21 A. Well, the goal is to make sure that we are all out there
22 together and that the store isn't open and staffed. That's the
23 point of the strikes. So, the amount of time I gave, I felt
24 was adequate enough to get everybody up and ready to go and
25 give them the notice too.

1 Q. I think you misunderstood my question. My question is, is
2 that an adequate amount of time for a store manager to find
3 coverage for the store in light of the fact that everyone is
4 supposed to be working is going to go on?

5 A. No, it's not.

6 Q. So, when Hannah said to you that she would appreciate if
7 you provided additional time so that she could provide --
8 obtain coverage, that would not have been an admirable
9 conversation to have.

10 A. No.

11 Q. And you sit here today, that question that she asked you
12 had nothing to do with the fact that she was talking to you
13 correct?

14 A. No.

15 Q. You had some discussion about Hannah approaching you after
16 the strike to ask if you or any other partner had stolen coffee
17 from the store, correct?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And your response was that "No, that was not the case and
20 that we used our mark outs?"

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did anything happen after that beyond your response to her
23 that you did not steal coffee?

24 A. No. She just said Okay.

25 Q. And there was nothing -- no -- no discipline imposed on

1 anyone?

2 A. No.

3 Q. To your knowledge, was there any further discussions about
4 the subject of stolen coffee after your discussion with her?

5 A. I could tell her that she wanted to check the till for the
6 like transaction that each of us did for their markouts she
7 could, but that was the last I heard that --

8 Q. Did you ask Hannah why she had thought that you had stolen
9 coffee?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did anyone at your store receive any type of discipline
12 for allegedly stealing coffee?

13 A. Not to my knowledge, no.

14 Q. And then with respect to the issue of mark outs, you
15 testified that for this particular strike, you handed out
16 marked out items to customers because the store was closed,
17 correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did anyone ask you if you had properly marked out items to
20 give away to customers?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Did anyone get disciplined at your store or marking out
23 items and handing them to customers?

24 A. No.

25 MR. BALSAM: Just one minute, Judge.

1 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

2 BY MR. BALSAM:

3 Q. Going back to the July 4th issue, isn't it true that at
4 your other store -- where the store was shut down earlier on
5 July 4th, that that schedule was set into place many months
6 before the July 4th holiday?

7 A. Yes. Yes sir.

8 Q. Excellent. How does that work?

9 A. So, the schedules are written about -- they should be
10 written about three weeks in advance. Because of the situation
11 that we were in, I'm -- I'm unaware if -- she was just writing
12 as we were going maybe two weeks or a week or so, just because
13 we had all transferred locations.
14 So, the schedule was written for July 4th on that day. But I -
15 - I actually approached her cause I wasn't unaware if she knew
16 that that was something that Starbucks stores did since I don't
17 think she had been there July 4th before.

18 Q. Okay. But again to your -- to your point, not all
19 locations do the same thing as you've experienced in your
20 partnership?

21 A. I can't say. Yeah. I don't think that they all -- maybe
22 close early or, close at the same time if they do close early.
23 But I just know from my experience.

24 Q. Okay. On your direct examination, you -- you -- when
25 asked, you said that you had sent an employee home for

1 violating the so-called from charge. Do you remember that?

2 A. I don't think I did say that.

3 Q. You did not?

4 A. I don't think so, no.

5 Q. Just to confirm, you've never sent anyone home before for
6 violating the so called three calls?

7 A. I don't believe so.

8 Q. Okay.

9 MR. BALSAM: Nothing further. Thanks.

10 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. Yes, of course. And any
11 redirect?

12 MS. SNELLING: Yes, Your Honor.

13 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MS. SNELLING:

15 Q. So, Rachel, in the beginning of the cross examination,
16 respondent asked if you obtained permission to close the store,
17 cafe. And you responded "Yes". And then respondent asked if -
18 - if you did that because you had to and you responded "Yes,
19 for safety".

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So, what did you mean?

22 A. So there were instances where we would be scheduled three
23 people. And I had one person call out, which means there was
24 two. And the Tonawanda store had four different ways to order
25 and would need one floater, so we were already down. So, at

1 that point I just wasn't comfortable running the store with
2 myself and one other person, and I called Hannah and said,
3 "Listen, I don't get to anybody in until around 4. If I could
4 close the lobby down for about two hours, just because we just
5 can't handle it by ourselves". And it -- it just didn't -- it
6 didn't feel like a safe situation to have only two of us there
7 alone.

8 Q. So, when you said you had to, you meant forced because of
9 the safety?

10 MR. BALSAM: Objection.

11 JUDGE RINGLER: Let me hear the question again.

12 BY MS. SNELLING:

13 Q. I said -- so when you said you had to, it was in reference
14 to closing the lobby for safety.

15 MR. BALSAM: She's testified already. Objection.

16 JUDGE RINGLER: Yeah. You're -- you're also leading
17 her pretty badly. And she sure was.

18 MS. SNELLING: Okay. That's fine, Your Honor.

19 Withdrawn.

20 BY MS. SNELLING:

21 Q. Rachel at the Tonawanda store -- why were you working at
22 the Tonawanda store?

23 MR. BALSAM: Objection. That's an answer.

24 MS. SNELLING: I -- I mean, respondent touched upon
25 the Tonawanda location a lot and in the cross examination. So,

1 I would like to clarify who was working at the Tonawanda
2 location specifically so that we could kind of clarify --

3 JUDGE RINGLER: Didn't we cover that with the -- that
4 whole contract agreement?

5 MS. SNELLING: I -- we did in part, Your Honor. I --

6 JUDGE RINGLER: So, is there something new that maybe
7 I'm missing?

8 MS. SNELLING: Potentially, Your Honor. In -- in my
9 mind -- yes.

10 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Go ahead. You could ask the
11 question.

12 MS. SNELLING: Okay.

13 BY MS. SNELLING:

14 Q. So, when Sheridan and Bailey employees transferred to the
15 store, who was already working there?

16 A. There was nobody there at the time.

17 Q. Okay. So how would you describe then the Sheridan and
18 Bailey partners transfer?

19 MR. BALSAM: Objection, relevance.

20 JUDGE RINGLER: I'll -- I'll allow it. Go ahead.

21 BY MS. SNELLING:

22 A. So, when we did our bargaining call on May 26th, because
23 it was so close to the day of our -- our store being shut down
24 on June 2nd -- or June 6th rather. Alan came up with this very
25 quick. Let's get everybody to one store just so we don't have

1 to split hers and split people up.

2 The Tonawanda store is maybe a mile from the Sheridan
3 store, so it would be easier for transport. And the partners
4 at the Tonawanda store were at Lancaster Regal Store at the
5 time because they had been very short staffed. So, we can just
6 go in there, help it open and maintain our hours, and then just
7 go back.

8 Q. Okay. So, when you transferred to Tonawanda, what -- what
9 if any differences were there?

10 MR. BALSAM: Objection, vague.

11 JUDGE RINGLER: Sustained. You could ask regarding X
12 or Y or Z.

13 MS. SNELLING: Yes.

14 BY MS. SNELLING:

15 Q. So, what if any changes were made to management when you
16 moved to the Tonawanda store?

17 MR. BALSAM: Objection, beyond the scope of cross.
18 And talking about changes to what sort of an --

19 JUDGE RINGLER: I think that's true. So, I'll
20 sustain.

21 BY MS. SNELLING:

22 Q. And did you work with any new people when you moved to the
23 Tonawanda location?

24 MR. BALSAM: Objection, irrelevance. And beyond the
25 scope of cross.

1 MS. SNELLING: It's very relevant, Your Honor.
2 Respondent's theory is that the Tonawanda location was a
3 completely different store when in reality it was -- it was
4 just a new location.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. I'll allow the question.

6 MR. BALSAM: It's also beyond scope of cross.

7 JUDGE RINGLER: I'll -- I'll permit it. You've
8 already kind of gotten into that a little bit, so go ahead.

9 BY MS. SNELLING:

10 A. No, there was nothing new there.

11 Q. And did you have any other managers besides Hannah?

12 MR. BALSAM: Objection, vague. Also, beyond scope of
13 cross.

14 JUDGE RINGLER: Sustained.

15 MS. SNELLING: Okay. Okay. No further questions,
16 Your Honor.

17 JUDGE RINGLER: All right.

18 MR. BALSAM: I'm good.

19 MR. HAYES: No questions.

20 JUDGE RINGLER: Good. We're set. Okay. Good.

21 Thank you very much. You're excused. Please do not discuss
22 your testimony with anyone.

23 THE WITNESS: Sure.

24 JUDGE RINGLER: And so, we've got -- that 1210 --

25 MS. SNELLING: Actually, Your Honor, we do actually

1 have one thing. Are we off the record yet?

2 JUDGE RINGLER: We are not.

3 MS. SNELLING: Okay.

4 JUDGE RINGLER: We're not, we're about to be, but --
5 what do you got?

6 MS. SNELLING: We would like to enter in -- GC
7 Exhibit 48? This is a highlighted version of the ALJB from
8 Buffalo One. And this is highlighted as Ms. Cohen did testify
9 in Buffalo One.

10 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-48 identified.)

11 MR. BALSAM: Objection, obviously.

12 JUDGE RINGLER: Of course. I just want to see where
13 some of the highlights are. So where -- where are the a --

14 MS. SNELLING: I don't have a copy of me, Your Honor.
15 The Sheridan -- if this helps, the Sheridan and Bailey store
16 was involved in Buffalo One. So most likely the testimony --
17 close to where that is in the ALJB.

18 JUDGE RINGLER: You know -- and this is just a very
19 brief locket and this is just an editorial comment. I'm going
20 to handle this of course the same way I've handled the other
21 stuff.

22 MS. SNELLING: Mm-hmm.

23 JUDGE RINGLER: But just looking at your highlights
24 on pages 88 to 91 for example, doesn't seem to have any bearing
25 at all or connection to our complaint. So that's just a - no,

1 I'm not sure the basis for really all the highlights and -- and
2 you know, the short look that I've given this in terms of a
3 connection to the complaint. But I mean that's -- that is what
4 it is.

5 So, I'm going to reject GC 48 and we'll put that in
6 the rejected exhibit folder. Now, we had a discussion about
7 the -- the length of the lunch break. How long do you feel you
8 need?

9 MR. GOODE: Can we have an extra like -- we -- we'd
10 be off until 1:30 p.m., Judge?

11 JUDGE RINGLER: Sure. Okay. We can definitely do
12 that.

13 MR. GOODE: I -- I didn't need anything too long.

14 JUDGE RINGLER: Yeah. Okay. 1:30 -- or 1:30 p.m.
15 will work for everyone. Okay. We'll go back on the record at
16 1:30 p.m..

17 MR. GOODE: Thank you Judge.

18 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. Yes, you're welcome.

19 (Brief recess at 12:14 p.m./ Reconvened at 1:31 p.m.)

20 JUDGE RINGLER: All right, we're back on. Took a
21 nice lunch break and it is 1:30 p.m. So, we're going to
22 continue if our next GC witness. So, who do we have?

23 MR. GOODE: William Westlake.

24 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. Mr. Westlake -- first and
25 foremost, you're ready -- you're anticipating my moves? I'm

1 just going to ask you to spell your name first and last.

2 First.

3 THE WITNESS: First. It's William Westlake. That's

4 W-I-L-L-I-A-M W-E-S-T-L-A-K-E.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: Perfect.

6 Whereupon,

7 WILLIAM WESTLAKE,

8 was called as a witness having been previously duly sworn, was

9 examined and testified as follows:

10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

11 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. And so, for William

12 Wesley, what complaint paragraphs is he going to testify about?

13 And that's not a question for you. That's for the attorneys.

14 MR. GOODE: Judge. We have -- it's essentially all of

15 paragraph 8, so they -- you know A and D go together, B and E,

16 C and F, but it's effectively all of paragraph eight.

17 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

18 MR. GOODE: 9(A), 9(B), 9(C), (D), (G), (H), (I),

19 (J), (K).

20 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Let me just catch up for just

21 a -- a moment and jot down on the complaint. what you're going

22 to testify about and we'll get started. Okay. Your witness.

23 MR. GOODE: Thank you, judge.

24 JUDGE RINGLER: You're welcome.

25 DIRECT EXAMINATION

1 BY MR GOODE:

2 Q. Hi, Will?

3 A. Hi.

4 Q. What are your pronouns?

5 A. HE/HIM

6 Q. Will, have you worked for Starbucks?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. When did you first begin working for Starbucks?

9 A. That would've been the end of May 2021.

10 Q. What store did you begin working at?

11 A. That was the Camp Road store. Located --

12 Q. Where's -- where was that located?

13 A. In Hamburg.

14 Q. Is that considered your home store?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. At the time you were hired in, who was your store manager?

17 A. It was David Fisk.

18 Q. Are you currently employed by Starbucks?

19 A. I am not.

20 Q. Why is that?

21 A. I was fired or separated from the company.

22 Q. When did that occur?

23 A. That was on October 4th, 2022.

24 Q. At the time of your discharge, who was your store manager?

25 A. It would've been Alex Roche. But there was also a store

1 manager who was I -- I -- I think also some somewhat -- there -
2 - which was Samantha Hamilton.

3 Q. What were you involved -- in the union campaign that began
4 in August of 2021?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And how did you become involved?

7 A. I signed the original letter to Kevin Johnson, joined the
8 initial organizing group, committee, handed out authorization
9 cards to coworkers, spoke up in meetings. And if I'm still
10 answering, also working in pens.

11 JUDGE RINGLER: I'm sorry, I didn't catch that.

12 THE WITNESS: If it was -- if I'm still answering, I
13 was saying I also -- working in pens on the floor.

14 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

15 MR. GOODE: Well, I'm showing you what's been marked
16 in the middle of this document is GC Exhibit 49. And for the
17 record, Your Honor, you'll see on the right-hand GC exhibit 3.
18 Just for purpose of the record, this was pulled from the
19 Buffalo one record.

20 (GC Exhibit 49 identified)

21 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

22 MR. GOODE: But for this case, the middle is GC
23 exhibit 9 -- 49.

24 Q. Will, do you recognize this document?

25 A. I do.

1 Q. Okay. What is this?

2 A. This is the original Dear Kevin letter, published by the
3 organizing committee in Buffalo, in August of 2020.

4 Q. Okay. And does your name appear on this document?

5 A. It does.

6 Q. Where at?

7 A. On the second page. It's the second name.

8 Q. And if you look at page 3, do you recall or do you know
9 what that document is?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What's that?

12 A. These are the fair election principles, which we had asked
13 Kevin Johnson to sign at the time.

14 Q. And did that accompany the -- the letter to Kevin Johnson?

15 A. It did.

16 MR. GOODE: Your Honor, I move for the admission GC
17 49.

18 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. Any objection to GC 49?

19 MR. BALSAM: Voir Dire.

20 JUDGE RINGLER: Go ahead.

21 VOIR DIRE

22 BY MR. BALSAM:

23 Q. Mr. Westlake, on what date was this document allegedly
24 sent to Starbucks?

25 A. I don't know exactly. I would say it would -- it was end

1 of August. It could have been the first week of September.

2 Q. And how was it sent to Starbucks?

3 A. That I wouldn't know.

4 Q. Did you not participate in the transmission of this
5 document to Starbucks?

6 A. I participated -- I was -- I did not -- I was not the
7 person who actually sent it.

8 Q. Do you have any knowledge as whether or not Starbucks
9 actually received this communication?

10 A. I do.

11 Q. How do you know that?

12 A. Because I was informed such by -- by the people who
13 actually sent it, which would've been Jessica Zach.

14 MR. BALSAM: No objection.

15 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. We're going to admit GC
16 49.

17 (GC Exhibit 49 was admitted into evidence)

18 Q. Will, I'm going to direct your attention to January of
19 2022. Were you working for Starbucks at that time?

20 A. Yes, I was.

21 Q. Okay. Were you physically in the stores at that time?

22 A. For the beginning part of January, I believe I was but I
23 went on a medical leave due to a workplace injury and was on
24 workman's comp for the majority of January.

25 Q. Okay. How long did your leave last?

1 A. I would say about four months.

2 Q. In January, Will, did you make any requests to transfer
3 stores?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. Take us through what requests you made.

6 A. Yes. So, there are two different ways that I made
7 requests. The first was using Starbucks's portal that they
8 have. I'm forgetting the exact name of the domain right now,
9 but basically you log in, it's attached -- associated with your
10 employee account.

11 All of the different job postings are present on the retail
12 side. Although there's a separate section for a non-retail and
13 I clicked on several different positions within the Buffalo
14 market and applied to be a three step of scores while working
15 at Camp Road.

16 Q. Let's just step back for a second. So do you read -- do
17 you know what website you went to to do this?

18 A. I -- I know that it's the Starbucks talent acquisition. I
19 think it's maybe like starbucks.taleo, but I don't know the
20 exact name at this time.

21 Q. Okay. And how did you actually apply for other openings?

22 A. So basically, the way the website works is you set up your
23 profile. It saves resume, cover letter, and standard
24 information. You have the opportunity to edit those things
25 with any application to you know, personalize it to position.

1 But it will kind of just give you a list and you can filter
2 through by geography, position, all sorts of criteria.
3 And so, with each one, I would click on it and then basically
4 click through like the next steps and submit an application.

5 Q. Do you recall which stores you -- you made request to
6 transfer to?

7 A. Well, so I'll -- I'll also say the -- the second way --

8 MR. BALSAM: Objection.

9 MR. GOODE: We'll -- we'll get there.

10 JUDGE RINGLER: Sustained.

11 BY MR. GOODE:

12 Q. Do you recall what stores?

13 A. Yes. I applied in 2022 to the Elmwood location, Genesee
14 Street, Sheridan and Bailey, Williamsville Place, Transit
15 Commons, Transit in Maple. And I think that is most of it.
16 And maybe a couple more.

17 Q. And just for the record, are all those stores in the
18 Buffalo market?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You -- you mentioned there was a second way that you would
21 request transfer. Can you explain that?

22 A. Yes. The second way was by talking to both my store
23 manager and the store managers at all other locations that I
24 was prospecting to transfer to.

25 Q. Okay. So, let's start in the January 2022 timeframe. Did

1 you make any calls to a district manager at that time?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. And who did you call?

4 A. That would've been MK.

5 Q. And did MK answer your phone call?

6 A. No, I left a voicemail and then also sent a text message.

7 Q. Did you get a response from MK after leaving your
8 voicemail?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Do you recall what you said in your voicemail?

11 A. Basically, just that I had applied to transfer to
12 different locations. I was hoping to get some support in
13 overseeing that process. MK had made clear in person multiple
14 times that I should go to her if there was ever something that
15 I needed help with. And this was something where I had been
16 waiting around for a few weeks, wasn't getting a response, and
17 so I contacted her directly.

18 Q. And did you ever get a, a response from MK?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Do you know what eventually happened to your transfer
21 request made through online?

22 A. I believe they all expired.

23 Q. Did you ever get a response to those transfer requests
24 from Starbucks?

25 A. No.

1 Q. All right. Are you fam -- are you aware of any employee
2 whose transfer requests were completely ignored?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Approximately when did you return from your leave of -- or
5 your -- your leave?

6 A. So I returned from medical leave, I would say about April,
7 2022.

8 Q. Towards the-- what part of the month, if you had to
9 recall?

10 A. I -- I think toward the end.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. And then was not scheduled for a few weeks after that.
13 So, the timeline's a little bit shifted in the few weeks there.

14 Q. And at that time, who was the store manager at that time?

15 A. It was Tanner Ress.

16 Q. Do you recall approximately when you first went back into
17 the store?

18 A. I would say that it was May of 2022.

19 Q. And can you take us through what you recall your first day
20 back in the store?

21 A. Yeah. So, I had reached out to Tanner by text about sort
22 of doing a walkthrough of the store just to familiarize myself
23 with it after being gone for a few months. I had gone in where
24 we had a discussion in the café and then did the walkthrough
25 afterwards.

1 Q. Okay. Where did that discussion take place?

2 A. That would've been in the Cafe of Camp Road.

3 Q. Where were -- where particularly?

4 A. In the front of house, in the cafe, at the table.

5 Q. Okay. And who do you recall was present for that
6 conversation?

7 A. It was just myself and Tanner Ress.

8 Q. Did you record that conversation?

9 A. I did.

10 Q. How did you record that conversation?

11 A. With my cell phone.

12 Q. Okay. And what type of cell phone did you have?

13 A. I had a Google Pixel.

14 Q. Okay. Is there a particular app that you used to record
15 the conversation?

16 A. Just the recorder app.

17 Q. To the best of your recollection, where was the phone when
18 you were recording this conversation?

19 A. I believe it was just on the table that I just had it out.

20 Q. Did you provide that recording of the NLRB?

21 A. I did.

22 Q. Did you alter that recording in any way?

23 A. No.

24 Q. If you listen to the recording, could you identify it?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Is that a complete recording of your conversation with
2 Tanner that day?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Have you seen a transcript for that recording?

5 A. I have.

6 MS. SNELLING: Well, I'm showing you what's been
7 marked for the purpose of identification GC Exhibit 50(B).

8 (GC Exhibit 50(B)identified)

9 Q. Please take a look at that exhibit. Let me know when
10 you're finished. What is this document, Will?

11 A. This is a transcript of the recording that I provided.

12 Q. Have you seen this transcript before?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Did you make any edits to this transcript?

15 A. I did.

16 Q. What were you doing while you made those edits?

17 A. I was listening to the recording.

18 JUDGE RINGLER: Hold on for one sec.

19 (Brief recess at 1:49 p.m./Reconvened at 1:49 p.m.)

20 JUDGE RINGLER: All right, continue counsel.

21 BY MR GOODE:

22 Q. And Will, is this a fair and accurate transcript of your
23 recording of your conversation with Tanner?

24 A. Yes.

25 MR. GOODE: I'm going to play what has been marked as

1 -- what is marked GC Exhibit 50(A).

2 (GC Exhibit 50(A) identified)

3 This has been emailed to respondent.

4 (Audio recording played.)

5 (Audio recording paused.)

6 Q. All right. I'm stopping at four seconds. You identify
7 that voice --recording?

8 A. Yeah, that was Tanner Ress.

9 (Audio recording resumed.)

10 (Audio recording paused.)

11 BY MR. GOODE:

12 Q. And -- and do you recall, or do you identify that voice?

13 A. It's all Tanner Ress.

14 (Audio recording resumed.)

15 (Audio recording paused.)

16 BY MR. GOODE:

17 Q. All right, well I'm stopping for the record at 31 seconds.
18 Who are those two voices there?

19 A. It's myself and Tanner Ress.

20 JUDGE RINGLER: Who said that's fair?

21 THE WITNESS: Me.

22 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

23 Audio recording resumed.

24 MR. GOODE: Stop recording at 6:31. All right, I can
25 represent that the last eight minutes, or as it says in here,

1 an audible walk through. I -- but I don't know if it if
2 everybody wants that to be played or not.

3 JUDGE RINGLER: I don't think it's necessary. You're
4 not offering it on the transcript and you're saying it's
5 inaudible. I think that's -- that's fine. So you're offering
6 50 (A) and 50 (B)?

7 MR. GOODE: Correct, Judge.

8 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. Any objection to GC
9 Exhibit 50 (A) and 50 (B) are transcripts?

10 MR. BALSAM: A voir dire?

11 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

12 VOIR DIRE

13 BY MR. BALSAM:

14 Q. Mr. Westlake, how do we know the date that this recording
15 was made?

16 A. I believe just from the phone file.

17 Q. Do you have a phone file on your phone currently?

18 A. I don't know if I do. Thank you.

19 MR. BALSAM: Judge, the transcript nor the file that
20 we displayed has any indication of the date in question, absent
21 that calls into question the authenticity of this -- this
22 recording and the transcript. If it's offered to prove that
23 there was a meeting that took place on a particular date. At
24 this point in time, we have no idea what that date is.

25 JUDGE RINGLER: So I think the meeting took place

1 from the testimony, if I'm correct, you said May of 2022, but
2 you don't know the exact date. Is that accurate?

3 THE WITNESS: Yes.

4 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. I think that's -- that's
5 satisfactory for this purpose. Do you have any other object?

6 BY MR. BALSAM:

7 Q. Other than the National Labor Relations Board, who else
8 did you send a copy of the oil policy?

9 A. I know that I sent a copy of it to Josh, I did send that
10 to Bloomberg. I sent it to counsel for the Union, Hayes Dolce.
11 I can't think of anyone else I sent it to.

12 Q. And the copy of the audio files you sent it to Bloomberg,
13 Hayes Dolce and the National Labour Relations board the same?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And based on what we heard, there's been no modification
16 to the recording?

17 A. Correct.

18 MR. BALSAM: I have no objection, Judge.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. So we're going to admit GC 50
20 (A) and 50 (B).

21 (General Counsel's Exhibit 50(A) and 50(B) admitted
22 into evidence.)

23 JUDGE RINGLER: And counsel, just to be clear, the
24 transcript you believe is relevant to which specific complaint
25 issues. I know there's discussion of transferring there, so

1 that -- that's clear. It deals with that. Is there anything
2 else in there that you feel it's relevant towards?

3 MR. GOODE: It -- there is it -- we believe it's also
4 relevant to the enforcement of the dress code policy
5 projection.

6 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Okay. Okay. That was common
7 upon there as well. Okay. And certainly you folks, I'm sure
8 will -- will brief that for me, pro and cons, so at least I
9 know where you're coming from. Okay.

10 BY MR. GOODE:

11 Q. Well, there was discussion in -- in here, there was
12 discussion with Tanner about transfers that you had, transfer
13 request you had made --

14 MR. BALSAM: I -- objection to the form. The word
15 transfers. There was never a discussion about multiple
16 transfers. There was only a discussion about one transfer
17 request transfers relating to what took place in that
18 transcript.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: I'll allow the question. Do you
20 understand what he means?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes.

22 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

23 BY MR. GOODE:

24 Q. Did Tanner ever follow up with you as he said he would?

25 A. Yes, he, we -- we -- we had continual conversations as I

1 continued applying to different locations to transfer. And at
2 one point I did also fill out the -- the like in-person
3 paperwork to submit, transfer across officially. But outside
4 of that, I never heard like a definitive no on any transfer
5 request or updates as to what could potentially be an issue
6 with the transfer.

7 Q. Were you ever granted a transfer?

8 A. No.

9 Q. You -- you listed stores that you had made transfers to.
10 were any of those stores included in North Buffalo Market?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Now, did you ever follow up again with Mr. Reece and say,
13 Hey, you know, we talked about it. You seemed optimistic?

14 A. Multiple times.

15 Q. Multiple times. Okay. And what did he say back to you?

16 A. Every time it was, yes, of course. Like, we'll -- we'll
17 get -- we'll get back to that, you know, we're working on that.
18 Of course, yes, it would be good.

19 Q. So positive, but then nothing actually happened, kind of
20 thing?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Okay. Do you know when, oh, I'm sorry, Judge.

23 JUDGE RINGLER: No, no, no. I was all set. You're
24 good.

25 MR. GOODE: Okay.

1 BY MR. GOODE:

2 Q. Do you know when Hannah started as the store manager?

3 A. Yes. It would've been about January or February of 2022.

4 MR. GOODE: I'm going to show the witness GC-9.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. So you're showing GC-9. All
6 right.

7 BY MR. GOODE:

8 Q. Well, I'm showing you what's been previously admitted into
9 evidence as General Counsel Exhibit 9. Do you recognize that
10 document?

11 A. I do.

12 Q. What -- what's depicted in that document?

13 A. This is a packet of pins that was purchased for partners
14 at next door by another barista after we had lost a coworker at
15 Camp Road to suicide.

16 Q. Do you know approximately when that incident occurred?

17 A. That was in March of 2022.

18 Q. Did you ever wear that pin at work?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you start wearing that pin when you first returned it
21 from your absence?

22 A. I did.

23 Q. How often, once you returned from your absence, did you
24 wear that pin at work?

25 A. Every day.

1 Q. And how did you wear that pin?

2 A. On my apron.

3 Q. Do you know approximately what part of your apron you wore
4 it on?

5 A. Yeah, I -- I would say toward the top corner.

6 Q. Which side?

7 A. Usually right. Alternating with where my name tag was,
8 slides around the top.

9 Q. Did there come a time when you were spoken to about that
10 pin by the employer?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. And who did you first speak to about that pin?

13 A. Yes. So after having worked with the pin for a couple of
14 weeks, I was approached by a shift supervisor at my store Gilad
15 Atif who had let me know that Tanner who was sitting in the
16 cafe had to instructed him to tell me to take off the pen or to
17 go and have a conversation with him. So I elected to go and
18 have the conversation and sat in the cafe.

19 Q. Okay. And is this approximately May of 2022 still?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. This conversation with Tanner, did you record the
22 conversation?

23 A. I did.

24 Q. Okay. And how did you record it?

25 A. With my phone.

1 Q. And again, what -- what phone did you have?

2 A. It was a Pixel.

3 Q. And how did you record what -- did you use an app to
4 record?

5 A. Yes. The recorder app.

6 Q. And during the conversation, do you recall where the phone
7 was at?

8 A. It would've been in my apron pocket.

9 Q. Who was part of this conversation?

10 A. It was just myself and Tanner Reece and a little bit Gilad
11 at the very beginning of, but the conversation itself with just
12 myself and Tanner Reece, Gilad was speaking to me before that.

13 Q. Okay. And the recording that you made, is it the full --
14 does it capture the full conversation between yourself and
15 Tanner?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you edit that recording in any way?

18 A. No.

19 Q. And did you send that recording to the National Relations
20 Board?

21 A. I did.

22 Q. Okay. Thank you. I'm showing you what's been marked for
23 purpose of identification, as GC 51(B). Do you recognize that
24 document?

25 A. I do.

1 Q. Okay. And what is that?

2 A. This is the transcript of record from my second
3 conversation with Hannah.

4 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-51B identified.)

5 Q. And have you seen that transcript before today?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And did you make edits to that transcript?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What were you doing when you made edits to that
10 transcript?

11 A. I was listening to the recording.

12 Q. Is this transcript a full and accurate transcript of your
13 recording with Tanner?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. If I played the recording for you made, would you
16 recognize?

17 A. Yes.

18 (Audio recording resumed/ Audio recording paused)

19 BY MR. GOODE:

20 Q. Okay. I'm going to stop at five seconds. Did you
21 recognize those voices?

22 A. Yes. So the first voice is if my shift supervisor and the
23 second voice is myself.

24 MR. GOODE: Sure, let's go ahead

25 (Audio recording resumed/Audio recording paused)

1 BY MR. GOODE:

2 Q. Okay. I'm going to stop at nine, two you seconds. Do you
3 recognize that additional voice?

4 A. Yes. That's Skylar a barista at my store.

5 (Audio recording resumed/audio recording paused)

6 Q. Who was that voice again?

7 A. That was Juan.

8 Q. Okay. That was 17 seconds.

9 (Audio recording resumed/audio recording paused)

10 Q. And 20 seconds was that voice again?

11 A. That's Skylar.

12 (Audio recording resumed/audio recording paused)BY

13 Q. And at 29 seconds who said, hi, how are you?

14 A. That was Tanner Reece.

15 (Audio recording resumed/audio recording paused)

16 MR. GOODE: I offer for GC -- the recording is GC 51

17 (A) and this transcript is 51 (B), Judge.

18 JUDGE RINGLER: Any objection?

19 MR. BALSAM: Yes, but a voir dire before I object.

20 JUDGE RINGLER: Yes.

21 VOIR DIRE

22 BY MR. BALSAM:

23 Q. Mr. Westlake, what date was this recording made?

24 A. This would've been at, like, at the very end of May, 2022.

25 Q. Do you have a precise date?

1 A. Not at this time, no.

2 Q. Do you have this recording?

3 A. I don't know if I do so.

4 Q. Do you have it on you?

5 A. I do not.

6 MR. BALSAM: Judge, I'm going to object because I
7 think the timing of a lot of these conversations is -- is
8 critically important to establish a timeline events here that
9 led to Mr. Westlake's termination. And so absent having the
10 actual audio file where we could have like the actual date that
11 this recording was made. This morning they weren't produced.
12 This is not the best evidence. The best evidence is what is on
13 his -- his Google Pixel device.

14 JUDGE RINGLER: Right -- right. I -- I appreciate
15 that. But we do have testimony that it occurred on May the
16 22nd. He's identified that is the recording that he made on
17 approximately that date. We've listened to the recording --

18 MR. BALSAM: May -- May of 2022.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: Oh, May of 22. You're correct,
20 correct. We don't have an exact date for that. That is very
21 true. We've listened to the recording. We've compared the
22 transcript to the words on the recording. They match. I think
23 at this point, a proper foundation has been laid for this
24 exhibit.

25 MR. BALSAM: But absent -- absent evidence of when

1 this occurred.

2 JUDGE RINGLER: Well, we have evidence of when we
3 know it's a meeting at some point in May of 2020. Is you point
4 that out.

5 MR. BALSAM: Judge. Just hypothetically speaking, if
6 a Union campaign starts on August 23rd, 2021, let's use that as
7 an example, and a witness comes and testifies that on or about
8 the end of August '21, I did this and I was retaliating against
9 Union support, wouldn't it be important to know whether or not
10 that incident occurred before August 23rd or?

11 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. But did this conversation
12 occur after or before the Union Organization?

13 THE WITNESS: I did not meet Tanner Reece until after
14 being unionized.

15 MR. BALSAM: Okay. Judge, I'm using that as an
16 example, it's not --

17 JUDGE RINGLER: Well, but it's not an appropriate
18 example, so I don't want to go back and forth, but I'm
19 admitting it. You could certainly take exceptions to my
20 admission. That's your prerogative. So we're going to admit,
21 51 (A) and (B).

22 (General Counsel's Exhibit 51 (A) and 51(B) admitted
23 into evidence.)

24 JUDGE RINGLER: And now counsel, once again, same
25 question. Relevance of this exhibit? I just want to make sure

1 there's not something else you want to use this for that I'm
2 not realizing?

3 MR. GOODE: No, it -- it relates to the -- the pin
4 policy.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

6 MR. GOODE: And how that policy was enforced and
7 ultimately leads to no -- I don't want to.

8 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. That's -- that's fine. Thank
9 you.

10 BY MR. GOODE:

11 Q. Now, well there was discussion in that recording about
12 following up with Tiffany.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Do you recall that? Who is -- who is Tiffany?

15 A. Tiffany Mane was a support manager that came into Buffalo
16 after the Union campaign had started, was posted, I think
17 initially at the Dupuse store or at least that's why -- when I
18 first became aware of her and as referenced in the recording,
19 she was promoted to district manager when MK departed.

20 Q. So as of May, 2022, she was the district manager?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And were you able to have a conversation with Tiffany?

23 A. Yes, I was.

24 Q. And approximately when did that conversation occur?

25 A. I don't remember precisely if it was the next day or the

1 next weekend, but it was one of those two.

2 Q. Was it in May of 2022?

3 A. Either the end, very end of May or very beginning of June
4 that will be.

5 Q. And how did you connect with Tiffany?

6 A. She called me on the store phone.

7 Q. Okay. So were you working that day?

8 A. I was.

9 Q. And when she called, where were you working?

10 A. I was working on the drive-through taking orders and
11 handing them out through the window, and then when she called
12 me, I went into the back of house to take the phone call.

13 Q. Were you expecting her to call that day?

14 A. I was.

15 Q. And did you have the conversation with Tiffany over the
16 phone?

17 A. I did.

18 Q. Did you record that conversation?

19 A. I did.

20 Q. And how did you record that conversation?

21 A. With my cell phone.

22 Q. And what phone did you have?

23 A. It was a pixel.

24 Q. And again, how did you make the recording?

25 A. So I put the store phone onto speaker and had my cell

1 phone just in my other hand.

2 Q. Okay. And was there a particular app that you used to
3 make the recording?

4 A. Yes, it was the voice recorder app.

5 Q. Okay. When did you start your phone recording that day?

6 A. I had started it when I got on the shift because I wasn't
7 sure exactly when Tiffany was going to call me or what the
8 circumstances would be, and I wanted to make sure that I had it
9 recorded.

10 Q. And when did you end the recording?

11 A. After I finished my conversation with Tiffany.

12 Q. Did you send -- did you edit that recording at all?

13 A. I did.

14 Q. Okay. Explain what you edited?

15 A. I cut out about an hour of me on drive through by myself.

16 Q. And did you ultimately send a version of that recording to
17 the NLRB?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. Okay. Did you send the full version or the edited
20 version?

21 A. I sent the edited version.

22 Q. Was there any discussion in the edited portion between
23 yourself and Tiffany?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Is the version that you sent to the NLRB have the full

1 discussion between yourself and Tiffany?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did you make any edits to the section of the recording
4 that's between yourself and Tiffany?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Have you seen a transcript of that edited recording?

7 A. I have.

8 Q. I'm showing you what's been marked for purpose of
9 identification 52(B). Okay. Do you recognize this?

10 A. I do.

11 Q. What is this?

12 A. This is the transcript of the recording that I made of the
13 conversation between myself and Tiffany Mane.

14 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-52B identified.)

15 Q. And -- and is the -- your full conversation with Tiffany,
16 depicted in this transcript?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did you make edits to this transcript?

19 A. I did.

20 Q. And what were you doing when you made those edits?

21 A. I was, listening to the recording.

22 Q. And if I play the recording for you, would you recognize
23 it?

24 (Audio recording resumed/audio recording paused)

25 Q. I'm actually going to stop at three. Will, if -- if you

1 recall, what's taking place at the beginning of this recording?

2 A. I am taking orders of the drive-through.

3 Q. Okay. And at some point, does the call from Tiffany come
4 in?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay.

7 (Audio recording resumed/audio recording paused)

8 Q. I'm stopping at 1:40, whose voice was that we just heard?

9 A. That was Haley Gosek, my shift supervisor.

10 (Audio recording resumed/audio recording paused)

11 Q. Stopping at 1:45. Who just said Tiffany's on the phone
12 for you?

13 A. That was Haley Gosek.

14 Q. Okay.

15 (Audio recording resumed/audio recording paused)

16 JUDGE RINGLER: Do you want to say something?

17 THE WITNESS: I was just going to note, and I put it
18 in the transcript as well, but -- her maiden name is Sansouci
19 (phonetic) in case there's confusion over different records
20 because the name change happened.

21 JUDGE RINGLER: I see.

22 THE WITNESS: While there were other charges be filed
23 and so I noticed discrepancy other places.

24 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Thank you.

25 MR. GOODE: Just for the record, that was stopped at

1 1:49.

2 JUDGE RINGLER: All right.

3 (Audio recording resumed/Audio recording paused.)

4 BY MR. GOODE:

5 Q. And whose voice did we just hear there?

6 A. (Indiscernible.)

7 (Audio recording resumed.)

8 Q. Okay. I will -- that audio recording that we just
9 listened to was that the full -- or the full recording of your
10 conversation with Tiffany on that day?

11 A. Yes.

12 MR. GOODE: I move for the admission of GC-52 A and
13 B, Judge.

14 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. Voir dire?

15 MR. BALSAM: Yes.

16 VOIR DIRE

17 BY MR. BALSAM:

18 Q. Mr. Westlake, what was the date of the conversation you
19 had with Ms. Mann that we just heard?

20 A. I don't know exactly, but it was the day after the
21 previous recording it, following up on my conversation with
22 Tanner, where he was mentioning Tiffany's availability.

23 Q. Okay. In the recording, we heard Ms. Mann reference an
24 upcoming Monday holiday. Do you know which holiday she was
25 referring to?

1 A. No. I -- I don't know.

2 Q. Could it have been Memorial Day?

3 A. It -- I don't know.

4 Q. Was this recording made before Rep and Memorial Day 22?

5 A. I wouldn't know.

6 Q. Do you have a copy of this recording on your cell phone?

7 A. I don't know.

8 Q. You testified earlier that you edited portions of this
9 recording, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you testified that the transcript that we just -- that
12 I have in front of you, which is GC Exhibit number 52, is a to
13 complete transcript of all of your conversations with Ms. Mann;
14 is that correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. There's no parts of the recording that you had with Ms.
17 Mann that was edited?

18 A. No.

19 MR. BALSAM: No objection, Judge.

20 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. Will admit 52 A and B.
21 And Counsel, just a question. Memorial Day is that -- it's
22 usually a Monday right?

23 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-52A and B received.)

24 MR. GOODE: In May.

25 JUDGE RINGLER: Do we want to stipulate that's the

1 holiday he was referring to?

2 MR. GOODE: I -- I don't want to, I, I'm happy to
3 stipulate to that, but I would propose that stipulation --

4 THE WITNESS: Is Memorial Day, like the last week of
5 --

6 JUDGE RINGLER: Yeah. Memorial Day would usually be
7 the end of May. I usually think it as like --

8 THE WITNESS: Okay.

9 JUDGE RINGLER: -- on of May 31 or so, but we could
10 look up when it was.

11 MR. BALSAM: It was on Monday, that's why I'm asking.
12 It was Monday, May 30th. It was Memorial Day, 20 --

13 JUDGE RINGLER: So May in 2022?

14 THE WITNESS: That -- that seems reasonable to the
15 timeline that I have.

16 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Okay. So approximately May
17 30th is -- is the Monday, so this is sometime before that
18 Monday.

19 THE WITNESS: It would've been the weekend before.

20 JUDGE RINGLER: The weekend before. Okay. Perfect.
21 All right. So you folks stipulate?

22 MR. GOODE: I will stipulate, Judge.

23 MR. BALSAM: Just so I'm clear, when we say the
24 weekend before, are we referring to that Saturday, two days
25 before the Monday or --

1 JUDGE RINGLER: I'm not, I'm not certain. I -- I
2 think we were just stipulating to the holiday that is being
3 referred to is Memorial Day, which was --

4 MR. BALSAM: I'm willing to stipulate to that.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

6 MR. BALSAM: But I guess I just want to make sure I
7 have the timing of this.

8 JUDGE RINGLER: And then we can ask a file question
9 and figure out what weekend and we're talking about exactly.
10 So we've got a stepe that May 30th, 2022 is the -- is the
11 Monday holiday that we're referring to. So that that's good.
12 Correct?

13 MR. BALSAM: Correct.

14 JUDGE RINGLER: And correct.

15 MR. BALSAM: Here's the date, another Monday holiday
16 that I'm aware of.

17 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. There you go. And that's --
18 that's, I'm aware of that as well. All right. So now when you
19 say the weekend before, are you talking the weekend immediately
20 before or the weekend -- two weekends before?

21 THE WITNESS: So I know that my schedule at the time
22 --

23 JUDGE RINGLER: If you know. And I'm not asking you
24 to kind of piece together, just if you remember.

25 THE WITNESS: Well, I -- I just know that my schedule

1 at the time was that they were putting me down for weekends
2 because I was still on somewhat limited work because of
3 recovering from the injury. And also from the first recording
4 Tanner referencing that there weren't very many hours available
5 for me at my store anymore.

6 And so yeah. I -- I would think that it was the
7 weekend right before. If she's -- if she's saying upcoming
8 Monday, but I -- again, I just know really that these
9 recordings for the most part were the last week --

10 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

11 THE WITNESS: Couple -- like the last couple of
12 weekends in May of 2022.

13 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. Fair to say -- I'll just
14 say I wrote in my notes a weekend shortly before Memorial Day;
15 is that fair?

16 THE WITNESS: That's fair.

17 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

18 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Yes. You're welcome. Go
20 ahead.

21 BY MR. GOODE:

22 Q. There was discussion in your conversation with Tiffany
23 about an accommodation, did you ever receive any follow up
24 about an accommodation from anybody with Starbucks?

25 A. Yeah. So my store manager contacted me later, Tanner

1 Reece, saying that he had actually put in an accommodation
2 request on my behalf.

3 Q. Okay. Did you talk to him about that?

4 A. He had left a voicemail on my phone and I think we talked
5 about it more over text.

6 Q. Okay. Do you recall approximately how long after this
7 conversation with Tiffany that you received that voicemail?

8 A. I'd say a week, week and a half, maybe two weeks.

9 Q. How did you -- or on what phone did you receive this
10 voicemail?

11 A. My -- my personal cell phone, it's a Pixel --

12 Q. And at the time in June of -- or in that May, June
13 timeframe, what phone were you using?

14 A. It was a Google Pixel.

15 Q. Okay. And what -- what phone number is associated with
16 that phone number?

17 A. 315-744-0030.

18 Q. Okay. And how do you -- is there a place on your phone
19 that voicemails are recorded?

20 A. Yeah. On the phones app, there's a tab for voicemails
21 that are left. Fairly standard.

22 Q. Okay. Are you able to send those voicemails to other
23 parties?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. Typically, how can you do that?

1 A. I believe what I had to do is I had to download it onto my
2 phone, and then I don't know if it ever went through email or
3 if it was just direct to Dropbox where I submitted it to the
4 NLRB, but --

5 Q. My next question, did you send that to the NLRB?

6 A. I did.

7 Q. If you listened to that voicemail, would you recognize it?

8 A. I would.

9 Q. Okay. I'm a little bit out of my number in here, so I'm -
10 -

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. I'm going to be playing, what is -- what I have circulated
13 to the Respondent. This is GC-56. Okay. We don't have a
14 transcript of this recording, Judge. It's a short voicemail.

15 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-56 identified.)

16 The -- the witness will identify the voice and we're
17 -- we're going to ask that it be that the -- the transcription
18 service, transcribe it into the records. I -- I do know that
19 we had a conversation earlier about transcript, Judge and I --
20 I can, I can share that.

21 We're -- there's a concern on our part that if we as
22 the Board agents draft that transcript, we're inserting
23 ourselves essentially into the facts of the case. And we --
24 because of that, we would like the transcription service to --
25 to transcribe what is heard on the voice reporting.

1 JUDGE RINGLER: It's common in the old days, but,
2 okay. If that's the, the new concern we'll have to --

3 MR. BALSAM: Judge?

4 JUDGE RINGLER: Yes?

5 MR. BALSAM: I have an objection to that. First --
6 first and foremost, you gave a ruling in an order for them to
7 be -- to do that, they didn't do it

8 JUDGE RINGLER: Well, I don't know if I'd call it an
9 order. I expressed how I wanted the evidence to be presented.
10 If he's --

11 MR. GOODE: I noted that Respondent objected to us
12 providing a transcript.

13 JUDGE RINGLER: If he's taking a position that
14 ethically -- I'm just saying. He's --

15 MR. BALSAM: He's interrupting me. I'm not
16 interrupting you.

17 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. If he's taking the position
18 that ethically he's been told by the supervisors at the Board
19 that you cannot do that, I'm now left for the choice of saying,
20 no, you didn't give me a transcript, A or B I still want to
21 develop, as I've said, repeatedly through, there's a full
22 record and a full picture of what happened.

23 So I can make a fair decision. I'm probably left
24 with that at this point. So we'll have two things. We'll have
25 the transcription by our court reporter. All right? So be

1 very careful to make sure that we know that we need to
2 transcribe what's going to be played, how long is what's going
3 to be?

4 MR. GOODE: I think it's a -- a minute or less,
5 Judge.

6 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. And we've got that A and
7 then B, we've also got the recording itself as an exhibit,
8 should I admit that? And let that in. And then we have the
9 opportunity for somebody to make a motion to correct the
10 transcript or something like that, which you could certainly do
11 in your brief.

12 So I think we've got a mechanism under what are less
13 than stellar circumstances to -- to figure out a way to make it
14 work. So we'll -- we'll -- it hasn't been admitted yet. So
15 let's go through the exercise of having him identify it and --
16 and that kind of thing.

17 And we'll -- we'll go from there. But I -- I did cut
18 you off, so I want to make sure if there's something you wanted
19 to say and put in the record. I want to be able to -- I want --
20 -- yeah, no. It -- it's fine. It's --

21 MR. BALSAM: Yeah. The solution, the easy solution
22 is that the counsel for the General Counsel should have done
23 what they've done with every other recording to date and
24 provided to a court reporting company to transcribe it.

25 I recognize that they're claiming there's limitations

1 to doing that, but there were limitations for every other
2 recording. And so the fact that we're treating this
3 differently is concerning to me.

4 I -- I'm not confident, no offense to the court
5 reporter, that the court reporter is going to be able to
6 transcribe accurately what is being said, because honestly, I
7 haven't even heard the recording.

8 JUDGE RINGLER: Right.

9 MR. BALSAM: I don't know.

10 JUDGE RINGLER: Right.

11 MR. BALSAM: And so the best way to solve this
12 problem is to table this, have them do what they should have
13 done to begin with, get it transcribed by a certified court
14 reporting company, and then we can come back and deal with it
15 until -- until that time --

16 JUDGE RINGLER: So what is the -- what is the
17 standard if a recording is under a minute in length, we're --
18 we're not going to do it. Even if it's -- it's kind of crazy.
19 Even if it's smoking gun evidence, we won't -- we won't pay for
20 a transcript. It could be, you know, the -- the game-winning
21 shot, basically. But if it's under -- if it's under a minute,
22 ain't going to do it. Is that -- is that the stance?

23 MR. GOODE: I -- I don't know, Judge. I -- I don't --
24 - I -- I'm sorry I don't have an answer for you. But --

25 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

1 -- to respond, I mean, the recording will -- if -- if it's
2 admitted to evidence. One, if it's rejected, Respondent
3 shouldn't have any issues. If it's admitted, well then the
4 recording is there. If the words are clear, Respondent can
5 tell us what they believe in their brief that says, or don't
6 say --

7 Yeah. And -- and the nice -- here's --

8 MR. GOODE: I don't see what the problem --

9 JUDGE RINGLER: Here's the other thing that's kind of
10 a nice thing, is we're going to have a hiatus here, roughly,
11 whatever it works out to be, three-week hiatus.

12 We're going to have a transcript available to
13 everyone before that. So if we -- when we come back, if
14 there's something that is, you know, not properly recorded in
15 the transcript, we could certainly deal with it on the record,
16 and Respondent could offer corrected transcript.

17 And I -- I'm certain that GC would be amenable to --
18 to putting that in. So without further ado, let's -- let's --
19 let's go forward on that. All right. I'm almost up to pad
20 number 2, so that means it's a long case. Just joking. Judge
21 joke. Keep going.

22 (Audio recording playing/Audio stopped)

23 MR. REECE: Hey, Will, it's Tanner.

24 (Audio recording stopped)

25 BY MR. GOODE:

1 Q. Will, do you know that voice?

2 A. Yeah. That's Tanner Reece.

3 JUDGE RINGLER: One more time for the record. This
4 is GC?

5 MR. GOODE: This is GC-56, Judge

6 JUDGE RINGLER: GC-56. Okay.

7 (Audio recording played as follows:

)

8 MR. REECE: I just saw your text message from
9 last night. I did want to let you know technology and
10 partner relation was able to get that accommodation form
11 submitted for me on my end. So we did get it submitted.
12 Just wanted to make sure that you knew that.

13 So I just wanted to let you know that I am
14 taking the -- the -steps to make you feel supported. As
15 far as the feedback on the (indiscernible), I did
16 actually reach out to Tiff on that one, because I hadn't
17 actually in my time experienced that, and she did confirm
18 you're correct. So I appreciate that feedback. And I
19 level (indiscernible) all the records on that.

20 But yeah, keep the feedback coming and let me
21 know if you need anything else. But like I said, until
22 then if you can't work in dress code, you cannot work on
23 the floor. So I appreciate your feedback and I will talk
24 to you soon. Thank you.

25 (Audio recording ended.)

1 BY MR. GOODE:

2 Q. Will, was that the voicemail that you just testified
3 about?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Was that -- did you edit or alter that voicemail in any
6 way?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And is that the full voicemail you received from Tanner?

9 A. Yes.

10 MR. GOODE: Judge. I offer GC 56-into evidence.

11 JUDGE RINGLER: Voir dire?

12 MR. BALSAM: No voir dire, but I object to the
13 introduction of the -- to the voicemail audio recorded without
14 a transcript.

15 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Duly noted. And I'm not even
16 taking the stance, honestly. If Respondent wanted to create a
17 transcript because you feel that it's important to have a
18 transcript of the record beyond what the court reporter is
19 doing, that would be something I'd be open to considering as
20 well.

21 MR. BALSAM: Okay.

22 JUDGE RINGLER: So --

23 MR. BALSAM: Thank you. Okay.

24 JUDGE RINGLER: You're welcome. All right. So 56 is
25 admitted and we we'll -- we'll march forward.

1 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-56 received.)

2 BY MR. GOODE:

3 Q. Will, did you receive any further voicemails from Tanner?

4 A. I believe so, yes.

5 Q. Okay. And do you recall the subject matter of those
6 voicemails?

7 A. I -- I think there was a -- a following voicemail. And
8 the reason I say I think instead of I know is I'm not sure if
9 it was covered over text instead, but basically confirming that
10 I was rejected from the accommodation request that the company
11 had filed on my behalf.

12 Q. Do you recall how long after you would've received that
13 voicemail?

14 A. A -- a week after the first about.

15 Q. Okay. So are we still in the June, 2022 timeframe?

16 A. Yes.

17 JUDGE RINGLER: Now, counsel, let me ask you a
18 question because our witness has now been test testifying for
19 about two hours. Is there a lot more of his testimony that is
20 left? If so, I think we'll take a -- a 10 minute break just to
21 give you a little break. And everyone a break. There is a lot
22 more?

23 MR. GOODE: Not this long. The -- you know, it won't
24 be another two hours, but --

25 JUDGE RINGLER: Right.

1 MR. GOODE: -- I believe there's a --

2 JUDGE RINGLER: A good hour or so?

3 MR. GOODE: Yeah. We won't be done in five, 10
4 minutes.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Okay. Then let's -- it's
6 3:30. So let's go off the break -- off the record until 3:40.

7 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. We're back on.

8 BY MR. GOODE:

9 Q. Will, this follow up voicemail, what phone did you receive
10 that time?

11 A. My same phone. My personal cell.

12 Q. And so what phone number did you receive this?

13 A. 315-744-0030, my personal line.

14 Q. Okay. And again is there a place on your phone that you
15 received these voicemails?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. And is it -- can you describe where -- where you
18 received them?

19 A. Yeah, it's on the phone app. Under a tab labeled
20 voicemail.

21 Q. Okay. And did you provide this voicemail to that anybody
22 ?

23 A. I did.

24 Q. And did you provide it to the NLRB?

25 A. I did.

1 Q. If I played you the voicemail, would you be able to
2 identify it?

3 A. Yes.

4 MR. GOODE: Judge, I'm going to play what is marked
5 as GC-Exhibit 57.

6 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. And then with respect to these
7 voicemail exhibits specifically 56 and 57, are these on the
8 shared drive or did you email all of these to the --

9 MR. GOODE: I emailed them to Respondent.

10 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Did you email a copy to me as
11 well?

12 MR. GOODE: I have not. I will do that.

13 JUDGE RINGLER: Yes, please do so. And then
14 obviously, CC everyone when you do.

15 MR. GOODE: Would -- would you prefer it emailed or
16 put on there? They're small enough to be emailed, but do you
17 have a preference Judge, as whether they go on the shared
18 drive?

19 JUDGE RINGLER: If they're small enough to be
20 emailed, that would be better.

21 MR. GOODE: We'll do, Judge.

22 JUDGE RINGLER: Saves me a step. So that's -- that's
23 good. Okay. And then of course you've emailed them to court
24 reporter?

25 MR. GOODE: We will do that.

1 JUDGE RINGLER: We will, okay.

2 MR. GOODE: Definitely.

3 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

4 MR. GOODE: Okay.

5 (Audio recording playing.)

6 MR. REECE: Hi Will, Tanner.

7 (Audio recording paused.)

8 Q. I'm stopping in three seconds. Again, Will, can you
9 identify that voice?

10 A. Yes. It's Tanner Reece.

11 (Audio recording resumes.)

12 MR. REECE: Follow up with your question from
13 yesterday. The answer is no, but the legal absence is
14 not an indefinite thing. The decision has been made.
15 The policy is there are no personal pins allowed and
16 that the accommodation was not approved for medical or
17 related food event.

18 So the expectation is when you come to work,
19 then you work in dress code. If you're unwilling to do
20 so, then I would recommend that you do follow through
21 with a leave of absence, which is just giving you time
22 and space to support you to process it.

23 But the decision has been made. The decision is
24 not changing. National suicide awareness month, we will
25 gladly wear the pin. And you donate the community

1 involvement during that time to honor Catherine.

2 But as far as the pin goes, the decision has
3 been, and it is expected that you do work without the
4 pin or you take a leave of absence or you choose not to
5 work, and then it would become a time management issue.
6 So that is -- this is (indiscernible).

7 If you have any questions, just give me a call
8 and let me know if you're going to go through with the
9 leave of absence. Thank you.

10 (Audio recording stops.)

11 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. And I'm just going to say
12 for the record, so this is another exhibit where we would
13 expect that the court reporting service would provide a
14 verbatim transcript of what was said on the -- on what was just
15 played. With respect to the other exhibits where we have a
16 transcript, we could just simply say, you know, recording
17 played or something like that. We don't need that to -- that
18 to occur. But for 56 and 57, we need the -- the transcript of
19 it. Okay. So go ahead.

20 BY MR. GOODE:

21 Q. Will, was that the entire voicemail you received from
22 Tanner?

23 A. Yes.

24 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-57 identified.)

25 Q. Did you alter or edit that voicemail in any way?

1 A. No.

2 MR. GOODE: Judge, I offer 57 into evidence.

3 MR. BALSAM: Voir dire.

4 JUDGE RINGLER: Go ahead.

5 VOIR DIRE

6 BY MR. BALSAM:

7 Q. Mr. Westlake, what date did Mr. Reece leave this voicemail
8 for you?

9 A. I don't know exactly. I think it would've been sometime
10 in June of 2022.

11 Q. Do you know if it was the earlier or mid or late part of
12 June?

13 A. I would guess early to mid. It wasn't -- it wouldn't have
14 been late I don't think.

15 Q. Okay. Do you still have this voicemail on your cell
16 phone?

17 A. I don't -- no, I don't.

18 JUDGE RINGLER: And if I'm not mistaken, maybe this
19 helps. I hope it helps. He did say a couple days later, I
20 thought. Am I correct on -- on that? Okay. So it doesn't
21 seem like it would be too far away from the first one.

22 MR. BALSAM: Judge, I -- I object that without a
23 transcript. This -- this video audio recording should not be
24 included in evidence, but I recognize you've already made a
25 ruling on the other ones.

1 JUDGE RINGLER: Mm-hmm.

2 MR. BALSAM: I expect it'd be the same here.

3 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. No. I will admit 57, but
4 still the same invitation that if we -- we all look at the
5 transcript and you're comparing it and it seems like it's
6 wrong, I -- I would expect that, you know, all sides would
7 bring that to my attention and we'll fix it up.

8 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-57 admitted.)

9 MR. BALSAM: Understood. Thank you.

10 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. All right. So we admitted 57
11 and what else do we have?

12 BY MR. GOODE:

13 Q. Will, in these various conversations, there's then
14 reference to suicidal awarenes -- awareness month. Do you know
15 what month that is?

16 A. Yes. That is September.

17 Q. And did you subsequently take a leave of absence?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. Okay. Approximately how long was that leave of absence?

20 A. So it was a 30-day leave of absence, and then at the end
21 of that, they put me on the schedule three weeks out. So it
22 was closer to 51 days than 30, but the actual leave of absence
23 itself was 30 days.

24 Q. Okay. Do you recall approximately the timeframe of your
25 leave of absence?

1 A. Yeah. It would've been in June, July.

2 Q. Okay. Do you recall when you returned to work from your
3 leave of absence?

4 A. I believe it was July of 2022, around.

5 Q. Now, when you returned to work did you return to the Camp
6 Road store?

7 A. I did.

8 Q. And at the time that you returned, who was your store
9 manager?

10 A. So at that time my store manager was Samantha Hamilton.
11 There was a temporary manager as well who was overseeing that
12 transition, which was Melissa Garcia, who was the manager for
13 the DPU store, and was present in my store for a couple of
14 weeks interim.

15 Q. And when you returned to work, did you continue wearing
16 the pin that's depicted in GC Exhibit 9?

17 A. I did.

18 Q. And when you returned, what happened?

19 A. So basically each day that I went into work, I was told to
20 clock in. I was asked if I was going to remove the pin, I was
21 asked -- and then when I refused, I was asked to clock out and
22 then sent home.

23 Q. Can you identify any of the individuals who would ask you
24 if you were going to remove the pin?

25 A. Yeah. So it was the shift supervisors, the store

1 managers. We had a few over the period of, you know, months
2 that that went on. And also the assistant store managers if
3 there were any at the time.

4 Q. Well, let's -- let's start with when you first returned in
5 -- in the beginning or during the time -- when you first
6 returned. Can you identify any of the individuals, those first
7 couple shifts?

8 A. Yeah. So the first couple of shifts it would've been
9 Taylor, who was the assistant store manager at the time. She
10 had come in either right before my personal leave or during my
11 personal leave, I think. And so she -- she did the initial
12 coaching.

13 Q. Do you know Taylor's last name?

14 A. I don't. This is not Taylor Pringle, who was a support
15 manager in my store prior. And it's also not the second
16 Taylor, who was another support manager at my store. This was
17 a third Taylor, manager at my store.

18 Q. Did you have any conversations with the assistant store
19 manager, Taylor, that you just referenced about the -- the pin?

20 A. Yes. So I -- I had what's referred to as a verbal
21 coaching with her where she was -- well, I'll -- I'll leave.
22 Yes.

23 Q. And -- and take me through that conversation.

24 A. So I, much like would become routine. I had clocked in, I
25 was asked whether or not I was going to take off the pin. I

1 said no, I was told to clock out.

2 And there was a conversation where basically Taylor
3 had talked to me about like what it meant to be a partner and
4 why we put on the Green Apron which was interesting to me
5 seeing as she had just been hired a couple weeks prior.

6 But she also, when I was talking about the pin and
7 explaining the backstory to it and how, you know Katherine was
8 a Union supporter, she also had put her name on the same letter
9 to Kevin Johnson, and that she had died and we were all
10 mourning that loss.

11 Her response was well, you know, we just don't know
12 with a pin like that what kind of reaction people might have,
13 the kind of reaction that customers and that other people on
14 the floor might have to wearing a pin like that.

15 That it could have a very negative reaction because
16 it references suicide, which to me just wasn't really credible
17 as a reason given both research on suicide and also the fact
18 that the pin doesn't really reference suicide. I mean, it says
19 you are not alone and it has the AFSP website on it. But --

20 Q. Okay. I'm showing you what's been marked for purpose of
21 identification as GC Exhibit 58. Can you take a look at that,
22 Will?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do you recognize this document?

25 A. I do.

1 Q. What is this document?

2 A. It is the management copy of my documented coaching.

3 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-58 identified.)

4 Q. Did you sign this document?

5 A. I did not.

6 Q. Okay. Where were you when you received this document?

7 A. I was in the cafe of the Camp Road store

8 Q. At the top under, or next to manager's name, it says
9 Tanner Reece. Was Tanner still the manager at that time?

10 A. No. Tanner left during my personal leave of absence.

11 MR. GOODE: I moved for the admission of GC-58.

12 JUDGE RINGLER: Any objection to 58?

13 MR. BALSAM: No objection.

14 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. We'll admit 58. And on
15 this one, you did not sign it. Is that -- is that correct?
16 Because it says on the side here, failure to sign 8/2/222.

17 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-58 received.)

18 THE WITNESS: Yes. It's the Starbucks standard that
19 partners are not required to sign any of their corrective
20 action forms. But here it does say failure to sign and I don't
21 know why the manager wrote that.

22 JUDGE RINGLER: I just wanted to make sure there was
23 not a signed one. That was the only --

24 THE WITNESS: No.

25 JUDGE RINGLER: -- motivation I hadn't asked you. So

1 go ahead.

2 BY MR. GOODE:

3 Q. Where -- where were you when you received this document?

4 MR. BALSAM: Objection, asked and answered.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: I'm not sure that it was.

6 MR. BALSAM: He said it was in a lobby of Camp Road.

7 JUDGE RINGLER: Did you -- did you already say that?

8 THE WITNESS: I did.

9 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. So there you go.

10 BY MR. GOODE:

11 Q. Who was present when you received it?

12 A. It was myself and Melissa Garcia.

13 Q. Did you record that conversation, Will?

14 A. I did.

15 Q. What did you use to record that conversation, Will?

16 A. My cell phone.

17 Q. And what cell phone did you use?

18 A. It was a Google Pixel.

19 Q. And what did -- what on your phone did you use to record
20 it?

21 A. The recorder app.

22 Q. And did you alter the recording in any way?

23 A. No, I did not.

24 Q. Is that recording a full capture of your conversation with
25 Melissa Garcia?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And was -- to your knowledge, was a transcript made of
3 that recording?

4 A. Yes.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: Thank you.

6 BY MR. GOODE:

7 Q. Will, I'm showing you what's been marked as General
8 Counsel Exhibit 53 A for the purpose of identification. Can
9 you take a look at this document?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. Do you recognize it?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What is this document?

14 A. This is the transcript of the recording that I made of the
15 conversation between myself and Melissa Garcia.

16 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-53A identified.)

17 Q. And did you make edits to this transcript?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. And what were you doing when you made edits to the
20 transcript?

21 A. I was listening to the recording.

22 Q. If I play the recording for you, would you be able to
23 identify it?

24 A. Yes.

25 MR. GOODE: Okay. I am going to play what's been

1 circulated as GC Exhibit 53 A, Your Honor.

2 JUDGE RINGLER: All right.

3 (Audio recording playing.)

4 (Audio recording paused.)

5 BY MR. GOODE:

6 Q. I'm stopping at seven seconds. Do you know who those
7 voices are, Will?

8 A. Yeah. So I am asking Melissa Garcia if she is Tiffany and
9 she responds no.

10 Q. Okay. So that -- the -- the second voice we've heard was
11 Melissa Garcia?

12 A. Correct.

13 (Audio recording resumes.)

14 (Audio recording paused.)

15 BY MR. GOODE:

16 Q. Okay. Stopping at 17 seconds. Do you know what OP stands
17 for?

18 A. It stands for Orchard Park.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. It refers to the Starbucks location there.

21 (Audio recording playing.)

22 (Audio recording paused.)

23 BY MR. GOODE:

24 Q. Okay. Stopping at 1:27. Who did you just ask that
25 question to, Will?

1 A. Katie Piccola (phonetic) shift supervisor at Camp Road.

2 Q. And was that her voice in return? Her response?

3 A. Yes.

4 (Audio recording playing.)

5 (Audio recording paused.)

6 BY MR. GOODE:

7 Q. I'm stopping at 3:19. Will, who just said morning, how
8 are you?

9 A. That is Taylor the ASM at the time.

10 Q. Is that the same Taylor you previously mentioned in your
11 testimony?

12 A. It is.

13 (Audio recording resumed/audio recording paused)

14 Q. Okay. I'm stopping at 4:26. Who just said good?

15 A. That was Melissa Garcia.

16 Q. Okay. So as this part of the conversation takes place, is
17 there anybody there besides yourself and Ms. Garcia?

18 A. No.

19 MR. GOODE: Okay. Restarting, Judge.

20 (Audio recording resumed/audio recording paused)

21 BY MR. GOODE:

22 Q. Will, was that recording your conversation with Melissa
23 Garcia?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And that's -- is that the court recording of the

1 conversation that you received? The documented coaching?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And I think -- once again, did you alter that recording in
4 any way?

5 A. I did not.

6 MR. GOODE: Judge, I will move for admission of GC 53
7 A and B.

8 MR. BALSAM: No objection.

9 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. So we'll admit 53 A and
10 B.

11 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-53A received.)

12 BY MR. GOODE:

13 Q. Will, did you work any more shifts or -- strike that.
14 Were you scheduled to work any more shifts after August 2nd?

15 A. I was.

16 Q. And did you show up for those shifts?

17 A. I did.

18 Q. And take -- were you wearing the -- the same pin those
19 days?

20 A. I was.

21 Q. Okay. Take us through what happened.

22 A. I would clock in. I was asked if I was going to take off
23 the pin. I would say no. I was asked to clock out and then I
24 was sent home.

25 Q. And again, who -- so we're -- we're after August 2nd.

1 Now, who are you interacting with at these -- at these times?

2 A. Mostly the shift supervisors. They had had several
3 meetings specifically about this issue.

4 Q. Can you name any of those shift supervisors?

5 A. Yeah. Joard, Tiff, Alex Mano (phonetic), Katie Piccola,
6 Heather Kitchen.

7 Q. Okay. Can you please take a look at what I've marked as
8 GC's Exhibit 59 for purpose of identification?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Do you recognize this document?

11 A. I do.

12 Q. Okay. What is this?

13 A. This is a written warning for -- my written warning.

14 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-59 identified.)

15 Q. Okay. And did you receive this written warning?

16 A. I did.

17 Q. Okay. Is your signature on this?

18 A. It is not.

19 Q. Where were you when you received this document?

20 A. I was in the cafe of the Camp Road store.

21 MR. GOODE: Okay. Move for the admission of GC-59,
22 Judge.

23 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. Any objection to 59?

24 MR. BALSAM: No, objection, Judge. I just know that
25 we would -- probably are going to provide a better copy than a

1 photograph of the print of action.

2 MR. BALSAM: Okay. Do you feel that it's helpful? I
3 probably don't prompt with that.

4 MR. GOODE: Great. Thank you.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. So we will admit our GC-
6 59.

7 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-59 received.)

8 BY MR. GOODE:

9 Q. Let me set back real quick, Will -- in the -- in the last
10 recording there was reference to an unusual name, Kelleigh, do
11 you remember that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Who is Kelleigh?

14 A. That refers to Kelleigh Hamlin. The name of Kelleigh,
15 it's spelled K-E-L-L-E-I-G-H. And Kelleigh was the support
16 manager for the majority of the Union campaign. Almost all of
17 it at my store. One of the support managers, I'm sorry.

18 Q. The -- I'm sorry about that. I'm going to turn you back
19 to GC-59. Who gave you your written warning?

20 A. It was Samantha Hamilton and Desiree Weaver who was the
21 new ASM at the time, replacing Taylor. The ASM and Samantha
22 replacing MG or formerly Tanner.

23 Q. Did you record that conversation?

24 A. I did.

25 Q. And how did you record that conversation?

1 A. With my cell phone.

2 Q. And which phone did you use?

3 A. It was my personal phone, my pixel.

4 Q. How on your phone did you record the conversation?

5 A. With the recorder app.

6 Q. And did you alter that recording in any way?

7 A. I did not.

8 Q. Did you provide that recording to the NLRB?

9 A. I did.

10 Q. Would you recognize that recording if you listened to it?

11 A. I would.

12 Q. Is there a transcript of that recording?

13 A. There is.

14 Q. Have you seen that transcript before?

15 A. I have.

16 Q. I'm going to hand you what has been marked for purpose
17 identification Exhibit 54B. Would you take a look at that
18 document?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Do you recognize this document?

21 A. I do.

22 Q. Okay. What is this?

23 A. This is a transcript of the recording that I made of the
24 conversation between myself and Samantha Hamilton

25 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-54B identified.)

1 Q. Did you make edit to this transcript?

2 A. I did.

3 Q. And what were you doing when you made those edits?

4 A. I was listening to the recording.

5 Q. Is this a fair and accurate transcript of -- of that
6 recording?

7 A. Yes.

8 MR. GOODE: It has been circulated as 54A, Judge.

9 JUDGE RINGLER: All right.

10 (Audio recording playing.)

11 (Audio recording paused.)

12 BY MR. GOODE:

13 Q. And who were those two voices we just heard?

14 A. So the hi is myself and the hello is referring to Samantha
15 Hamilton. It's -- or it's attributed to Samantha Hamilton.

16 MR. GOODE: Stopping at nine, okay? Restarting.

17 (Audio recording paused.)

18 (Audio recording resumes.)

19 BY MR. GOODE:

20 Q. And we just heard the name Desiree. Who said that?

21 A. Desiree said her own name.

22 Q. Okay.

23 (Audio recording paused.)

24 (Audio recording resumes.)

25 BY MR. GOODE:

1 Q. Will, was that the complete recording of your conversation
2 with Samantha Hamilton on August 20th?

3 A. Yes.

4 MR. GOODE: Judge, I offer 54A and 54B.

5 MR. BALSAM: No objection.

6 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. We'll admit 54A and B.

7 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-54A and B received.)

8 Q. So you mentioned in -- in the -- in this conversation that
9 you had worn the pin at other stores. What stores had you worn
10 that at?

11 A. I had worn the pin at Elmwood Village, at Williamsville
12 Place. And third location. I want to say Sheridan and Bailey,
13 but I'm not 100% on that at this point.

14 MR. GOODE: I apologize in advance for the quality of
15 our color copies. We're going to email these to all the
16 parties right now.

17 Q. So I'm showing you what's been marked for purposes for
18 purpose of identification is GC Exhibit 60 and 61. Can you
19 please take a look at these? Do you recognize these?

20 A. Yes, these are -- yes, I recognize them.

21 Q. Okay. So let's start with GC Exhibit 60. What is GC
22 Exhibit 60?

23 A. This is a picture I took of myself while on break at the
24 Williamsville Place store.

25 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-60 identified.)

1 Q. Okay. And how did you -- so is this a printout of that
2 picture?

3 A. It is.

4 Q. Okay. How did you take that picture?

5 A. With my phone.

6 Q. And what -- what did -- what on your phone did you use to
7 take that picture?

8 A. The camera app.

9 Q. And what phone did you use?

10 A. It was a Google Pixel.

11 Q. And are you wearing the -- you were not alone pin in this
12 picture?

13 A. I am.

14 Q. And did you -- you said that you were on break. Did you
15 wear that pin the entire shift that day?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you alter this picture in any way?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Did you send this picture to the NLRB?

20 A. Yes.

21 MR. GOODE: Move for the admission of GC 60, Judge.

22 JUDGE RINGLER: Do we have a date of when the picture
23 was taken?

24 MR. GOODE: I can ask, Judge.

25 BY MR. GOODE:

1 Q. Do you recall -- well, when you wore this pin at
2 Williamsville Place?

3 A. So it would've been in July or August of 2022. I do know
4 that I still have these photos though, and I think in -- in
5 briefs it would be possible to submit the actual dates of the
6 photos if needed.

7 Q. Did you wear it after you returned from your leave of
8 absence?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. And did you wear this prior to receiving your
11 written warning?

12 A. Yes.

13 MR. GOODE: I'll offer GC Exhibit 60, Judge.

14 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. Any objection to 60?

15 MR. BALSAM: Your Honor, voir dire.

16 JUDGE RINGLER: Go ahead.

17 VOIR DIRE

18 BY MR. BALSAM:

19 Q. How do we know that this picture was taken the
20 Williamsville Place store?

21 A. I mean, you could look, I think, at the cafe. It's pretty
22 unique actually because it wasn't an original Starbucks model.
23 It -- like the building wasn't made by Starbucks, it was
24 purchased.

25 I don't know from who, but the -- the design of the

1 store is unique to that store. And I think if you were to look
2 at any other photo of the store or, you know, go to the
3 location, you would. It's -- it's obvious to me.

4 Q. But from looking at this picture itself, how do we know?
5 Are there any notations or more things that would indicate that
6 this is taken at Williamsville Place store?

7 A. I'm -- I mean, it -- it's just -- it's just evident from
8 the design of the cafe. I don't think there's another store in
9 the market even that has a design that's similar.

10 Regardless though, I -- I would say, you know, maybe
11 in -- like I was saying before there would be a -- if we -- if
12 we need to grab an original file, I know that I do still have
13 the photos on my phone and there would be a geography tag
14 associated with that photo, which I think we would be able to
15 provide if it was really necessary. But I -- I -- I -- I think
16 that it's evident that this is Williamsville Place just by
17 looking at it.

18 Q. Who's the partner behind you who probably doesn't want the
19 picture taken?

20 A. That was the shift supervisor that was on the shift.

21 Q. What is that shift supervisor's name?

22 A. I couldn't tell you.

23 MR. BALSAM: Judge, I -- I'm going to object to -- to
24 this document. It has not been properly authenticated. The
25 witness has testified that he has the original file of this

1 photo on his -- on his phone. That would provide a date, a
2 location according to this witness, and the ability for us to
3 ensure that there -- this picture had not been altered or
4 tampered with.

5 Just allowing this -- the introduction to document
6 based on this witness' testimony, given what this picture is
7 purporting to represent, it would be highly prejudicial to
8 Starbucks. And again, not the best evidence of what this
9 purports to be.

10 JUDGE RINGLER: Counsel, do you want to reply?

11 MR. GOODE: Yeah. He testified to exactly where he
12 was at when he took this picture. His testimony is -- is not
13 only where he was, it's -- he gave a timeframe, he identified
14 the -- the store's cafe in the lobby. To his knowledge, to his
15 experience, he not offer anything that would call into question
16 in that credibility, Judge.

17 JUDGE RINGLER: Yeah. Yeah. And I -- I think in --
18 in addition to that, and I would agree with that, it's
19 certainly readily verifiable for Starbucks to talk to one of
20 your folks at this -- this Williamsville store and they could
21 testify about whether they agree this is a photo of the lobby
22 or not. Certainly you have the right to subpoena the record on
23 his phone to see if that's accurate as well.

24 MR. BALSAM: We've done that, Judge.

25 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Okay. So I will admit GC-60.

1 You can jump to 61.

2 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-60 received.)

3 BY MR. GOODE:

4 Q. Well, I'll have you look at GC Exhibit 61. What's this
5 document?

6 A. This is another photo that I took of myself on break in
7 the back of house on a different day at the Williamsville Place
8 location.

9 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-61 identified.)

10 Q. And did you -- is this a printout of that picture?

11 A. It is.

12 Q. Did you -- how did you take this picture?

13 A. With my cell phone.

14 Q. And it's the same cell phone you've testified to here
15 about today?

16 A. Yes, Google Pixel.

17 Q. And how did you take the picture?

18 A. I would've used the camera app.

19 Q. And are you wearing the, you are not alone pin in this
20 picture?

21 A. I am.

22 Q. Did you wear that pin the entire shift that day?

23 A. I did.

24 Q. Again, can you tell us the timeframe when this picture was
25 taken?

1 A. It would've been on break at some point in the back of
2 house. I think, you know, I -- I had already been wearing, you
3 know, the --- the pin at other locations, but I recognized that
4 it might be good to have proof of that. And so over multiple
5 days, I -- I took photos.

6 Q. Well, again, was this taken sometime after your return
7 from the absence?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And was it taken prior or after to your August 20th
10 written warning?

11 A. Prior.

12 Q. How can you identify that this is in the back
13 Williamsville Place?

14 A. The -- the sink bends -- yeah. I know where I took it.

15 MR. GOODE: Moving to admit GC-61.

16 MR. BALSAM: Voir dire.

17 JUDGE RINGLER: Go ahead.

18 VOIR DIRE

19 BY MR. BALSAM:

20 Q. GC-61, was this taken before or after GC-60?

21 A. That's a great question. I wouldn't know, but I would say
22 that they were about a week apart, the two.

23 Q. And just to confirm, this picture was taken at the
24 Williamsville Place location?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. When you were -- and this -- this picture is still
2 maintained in your phone?

3 A. Yes.

4 MR. BALSAM: Same objection as 60, Judge.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. So noted for the record, I'm
6 going to admit 61. And also the other piece of this is as
7 well, but obviously you thought of this. I mean, you could
8 certainly verify whether he was scheduled at the store. We can
9 narrow down the date that way as well, so -- okay.

10 BY MR. GOODE:

11 Q. Well, and -- and either of these shifts at Williamsville
12 Place, were there store managers present?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Were there store managers present when you were the -- you
15 were not wearing a pin?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Now, at Williamsville Place, did you have any
18 conversations with store manager while you were wearing the
19 pin?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Who was the store manager?

22 A. It was Deisha.

23 Q. Okay. And what do you recall in the conversation?

24 A. I was actually following up about my transfer request to
25 the store which Desa -- Deisha had said that she had not been

1 made aware of, even though I had been trying for quite a while
2 at that point, since January, and this was August to transfer
3 to that store.

4 We sat down, I think during my lunch to just sort of
5 talk about it. She said that it -- it seemed good that, you
6 know, she liked me from having worked there the last couple
7 days and, you know, that she would follow up and see if we
8 couldn't get a transfer request approved to Williamsville
9 Place.

10 Q. Were you told to take that pin off?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Did you take that pin off?

13 A. No.

14 Q. And just for the record to be clear, that you worked your
15 entire shift on those occasions?

16 A. I did.

17 Q. I believe you mentioned that you also covered a shift at
18 Elmwood?

19 A. I did.

20 Q. Again, was that -- covering that shift, was that after
21 your return from leave of absence?

22 A. It was.

23 Q. Was that before or after your August 22nd just -- written
24 warning?

25 A. It was before.

1 Q. How many shifts do you recall being up at Elwood?

2 A. I only recall one shift. I might have picked up more
3 shifts though because I -- I know that -- what I remember about
4 it at the time was that Jaz Brisack who was working at Elmwood
5 at the time had been scheduled multiple times outside of their
6 availability.

7 And so the only way to avoid the store being
8 understaffed was to try to find somebody to pick up the shift.
9 And I was looking for hours because I was being sent home from
10 every single shift at my store. So it actually might have been
11 more than one time.

12 Q. Did you wear -- on any occasion that you picked up a shift
13 at Elmwood, did you wear the -- you are not alone pin?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And who's the store manager at Elmwood at that time?

16 A. That would've been Merley.

17 Q. When you picked up any shifts at Elmwood at that time, was
18 Merley there while you were wearing the pin?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. And did you have any conversations with Merley
21 while you were wearing the pin?

22 A. I did.

23 Q. Okay. Take us through what you can recall about your
24 conversation.

25 A. She said that she liked my pin, actually. We talked about

1 a transfer to Elmwood Village, which was a request that I had
2 made months prior. And she said that she didn't see any
3 reason why I shouldn't be able to transfer there, and that she
4 would follow up with me

5 Q. On any shift that you picked up at Elmwood, did you work
6 your entire shift?

7 A. I did.

8 Q. Were you told to take the, you are not alone pin off?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Did you wear the pin the entire shift?

11 A. I did. And there were other people on the floor wearing
12 the pin as well.

13 Q. Do you recall any else -- anybody else?

14 A. Do I -- do you recall anybody -- who that was wearing the
15 pin?

16 A. I believe Michelle Eisen.

17 Q. Did you see employees at any other stores wearing that
18 pin?

19 A. I've -- so as I had talked about in the recording, in my
20 conversation with Samantha and Desiree, I had distributed -- I
21 -- I bought a bunch of packets and distributed the pin all
22 across the country to about, I'd say 10 different states asking
23 people to put them on and see if, you know, it was something
24 that was going to be approached in the same way that it was
25 being approached at -- at my store.

1 So I've seen dozens of partners wearing the pin at
2 other stores, both within the Buffalo market, outside of the
3 Buffalo market.

4 And even there's a store in New Jersey where
5 everybody has worn the pin every day for the last several
6 months. They are -- when new hires are brought on, they are
7 given a pin, everybody wears it. And there's a partner who
8 wears, I think, like 12 of them on her apron. Never -- there's
9 never been an issue of being asked to take off the pin.

10 MR. BALSAM: Objection, hearsay. Move to strike.

11 JUDGE RINGLER: I'll let you finish your sentence,
12 Will. Go ahead.

13 BY MR. GOODE:

14 A. There's never been an issue of people being asked to take
15 off the pin. Everybody wears it as part of that store's
16 culture.

17 JUDGE RINGLER: I do want you to, Counsel though,
18 obviously to delve into cross on this issue. What's the store
19 in New Jersey?

20 THE WITNESS: It's the Hopewell Store in New Jersey.

21 JUDGE RINGLER: And how do you know that Everyone
22 there wear the -- wears the pin?

23 THE WITNESS: I've -- I visited it. I communicated
24 with one of the leaders there very early on about this, and she
25 was immediately very supportive and recognized that, you know,

1 this just wasn't how the policy was ever enforced.

2 And so she was on it and she's been a leader at that
3 store and everyone is really supportive and it's, it's nice.
4 And so I've actually visited the store in person and just sort
5 of seen and the manager was there, no issue.

6 JUDGE RINGLER: Roughly when did you visit?

7 THE WITNESS: That would've been in -- I want to say
8 June or July. It was over the summer. I visited New Jersey
9 very briefly.

10 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay.

11 MR. GOODE: Now, following your -- sorry, strike
12 that, Judge.

13 BY MR. GOODE:

14 Q. Now, after your conversation with Samantha Hamilton on
15 August 20th, were you allowed to continue picking up shifts at
16 other stores?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Okay. When did that stop?

19 A. Shortly after that conversation where I had informed
20 Samantha that I was picking up shifts at other stores and
21 allowed to wear the pin, I was told that I was no longer
22 allowed to pick up shifts at other stores.

23 Q. Okay. Who told you that?

24 A. Sorry, other stores in the Buffalo market, and I was told
25 that by Samantha Hamilton.

1 Q. Okay. Where were you when you were told that?

2 A. We were in the back of house just at like the doorway
3 entrance.

4 Q. And was that at the Camp Road store?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you take us through what you recall of how that topic
7 came up?

8 A. It was one of the days where it was like fairly -- it was
9 like the routine sort of, you know, clock in, you have to take
10 off the pin, be told to clock out.

11 And before I had clocked out, Samantha like pulled me
12 a little bit into the back and was saying like, Hey, like, I
13 want to know that like we -- we heard your feedback on, you
14 know, how -- how you had picked up shifts at other stores, and
15 I wanted to let you know that you weren't -- that, you know,
16 because you're no longer in good standing with the company,
17 that you cannot pick up shifts at other stores in the Buffalo
18 market.

19 Q. Now, following your August 20th written warning and
20 conversation, were you continued to be scheduled at Camp

21 A. I was.

22 Q. And on your scheduled shifts, did you continue to wear
23 that pin?

24 A. I did.

25 Q. And did that continue into September of 2022?

1 A. It did.

2 Q. And on those shifts that you showed up, what happened?

3 A. So in September of '22, all the days that I showed up to
4 my shift, I was told to clock in, asked if I would take off the
5 pin, told to clock out, and then sent home early.

6 Q. I'm sorry, I -- I jumped -- I jumped the gun a little bit.
7 Following your August 20th conversation, did you continue to
8 wear that in -- in the end of August?

9 A. Yes.

10 MR. GOODE: Oh, I didn't label that. I'm sorry,
11 everybody. That is GC Exhibit 65. I -- I'm sorry, everybody.

12 JUDGE RINGLER: 65?

13 MR. GOODE: Yeah.

14 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. GC-65. Okay. And that is the
15 eight -- well, I'll call -- do you want to call it the 8/25/22
16 correction or the 9/1/22 correction? I guess it doesn't matter
17 so much. It's the final written warning.

18 BY MR. GOODE:

19 Q. Do you recognize this document?

20 A. I do.

21 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-65 identified.)

22 Q. Okay. When did you receive this document?

23 A. I received it on September the 1st of 2022.

24 Q. And where were you when you received it?

25 A. I received this -- and it's my final written warning. I

1 received it on September. Wait, on September the 1st? Or --

2 Q. Where were you when you received it?

3 A. Oh, where I was? I was in the cafe of Camp Road, sorry.

4 Q. And who gave this to you?

5 A. It was Samantha Hamilton and Desiree Weaver, the store
6 manager and assistant store manager at the time.

7 Q. And if you turn to the second page on the back, did you
8 sign the document?

9 A. I did not

10 MR. GOODE: Move for the admission of GC-65.

11 MR. BALSAM: Objection. Just that we will provide a
12 better copy.

13 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. No -- and I'd appreciate that.

14 MR. BALSAM: Yeah.

15 JUDGE RINGLER: So thank you for that as well. So
16 we'll admit GC-65.

17 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-65 received.)

18 BY MR. GOODE:

19 Q. Will, did you record that conversation --

20 A. I did.

21 Q. -- with Samantha? And how did you record that
22 conversation?

23 A. I used my phone.

24 Q. And which phone did you use?

25 A. My Pixel.

1 Q. And what did you use on your phone to, to record the
2 conversation?

3 A. It would've been the recording app.

4 Q. Was there a transcript of -- or is there a transcript of
5 that recording?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And have you seen that transcript before today?

8 A. I have.

9 MR. GOODE: Judge?

10 MR. GOODE: Yes. I just note that this has been
11 labeled as GC Exhibit 65. The final written warning was
12 labeled GC --

13 I'm all over the place. Okay. It's supposed to be 55.

14 JUDGE RINGLER: Yeah. Mine says 55, actually.

15 MR. GOODE: Yeah, I -- yeah.

16 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. I'll --

17 MR. GOODE: This is 55. It's 55B.

18 MR. BALSAM: Okay.

19 MR. GOODE: Thanks, everybody.

20 JUDGE RINGLER: Don't worry about it.

21 MR. GOODE: Judge, what -- do you have 55B?

22 JUDGE RINGLER: I do.

23 MR. GOODE: Okay.

24 JUDGE RINGLER: You -- you got mine, right? Thanks.

25 MR. GOODE: You got the same one. Okay. Well --

1 BY MR. GOODE:

2 Q. Have you seen this transcript before?

3 A. I have.

4 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-55B identified.)

5 Q. Did you make edits to this transcript?

6 A. I didn't.

7 Q. And what were you doing when you made those edits?

8 A. I was listening to the recording.

9 Q. The recording that you made, is it the complete audio of
10 your conversation that day with Samantha Hamilton?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did you edit that recording in any way?

13 A. I did not.

14 Q. If you listen the recording -- if you heard it, would you
15 recognize it.

16 A. I would.

17 Q. I promise this one is a lot shorter.

18 (Audio recording playing.)

19 Q. Okay. I'm stopping at 0:28. Whose voices did we hear at
20 the beginning there?

21 A. So the first voice is mine and the second is Heather
22 Kitchen, a shift supervisor at the store.

23 (Audio recording paused)

24 (Audio recording resumes.)

25 Q. I'm stopping at 1:34. Who were the two voices that said

1 hi?

2 A. That would've been both Samantha Hamilton and Desiree
3 Weaver.

4 (Audio recording resumed/audio recording paused)

5 Q. Will, was that a complete recording of your conversation
6 with Samantha Hamilton on September 1st?

7 A. Yes.

8 MR. GOODE: Judge, I offer GC Exhibit 55A and --

9 MR. BALSAM: No objection.

10 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. So we'll admit 55(A),
11 recording and 55(B), transcript of the recording.

12 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-55A and B received.)

13 BY MR. GOODE:

14 Q. Now, Will, I believe before I asked you about that, you --
15 you mentioned that you continued to wear the pin into
16 September. Do you recall that testimony?

17 A. I do.

18 Q. And remind us what happened on those shifts in September
19 when you showed up to work with the pin?

20 A. I would clock in, be asked if I was going to remove the
21 pin. We told to clock out, and be sent home.

22 Q. I'm going to show what's been marked for identification as
23 GC Exhibit 66. Please take a look at that, Will.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Do you recognize that document?

1 A. I do.

2 Q. And what is that?

3 A. It's my notice of separation from Starbucks.

4 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-66 identified.)

5 Q. If you can turn to the second page in the back. Did you
6 sign that document?

7 A. I did not.

8 Q. Where were you when you received that document?

9 A. I was in the cafe of the Camp Road store.

10 Q. And who gave it to you?

11 A. It was delivered by Samantha Hamilton and Alex Roche, who
12 was the new store manager for the store. Actually, it took --
13 he -- he might have still been the assistant store manager at
14 that time, but that was -- it was a very short period before he
15 was eventually the store manager.

16 Q. It's dated October 4th. Is that the day that you received
17 it?

18 A. Yes.

19 MR. GOODE: Move for admission of GC 66, Judge.

20 MR. BALSAM: No objection.

21 JUDGE RINGLER: Admit 66.

22 (General Counsel's Exhibit GC-66 received.)

23 BY MR. GOODE:

24 Q. Will, I'm going to direct your attention to the paragraph
25 -- looking in the middle of the page in the box, the paragraph

1 that begins in addition to dress code violations. Do you see
2 that sentence?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And it mentions a attendance and punctuality policy
5 issue on September 6th. Do you recall that day?

6 A. I do.

7 Q. Okay. Did you -- well, take me through what happened that
8 day.

9 A. So September 6th was a day that we did a citywide leaflet
10 of all the Buffalo area locations for Starbucks. So I had
11 arrived at Camp Road just before they had opened. And we --
12 there was a -- a group of us, including my coworker, Gianna and
13 we leafleted outside the store that morning.

14 Q. Okay. Can you -- can you describe in relation to the
15 store where you were leafleting?

16 A. Yes. So at first we leafleted the drive-through. But
17 then inside the store they had called the property manager who
18 showed up and then asked us to move to the sidewalks when we
19 were leafleting in front of like the -- the windows of the
20 store in -- in front.

21 Q. And at some point did you clock in for your shift that
22 day?

23 A. I did.

24 Q. And take me through what happened.

25 A. So I came in. I believe it was Alex Samo who was the

1 shift. And I clocked in, he asked me if I was going to take
2 off the pin. I said no, I was asked to clock out. And then
3 I'm sent home.

4 Q. During those -- those 45 minutes that it says you were
5 late, was that during the time that you were leafleting?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Now further on in that paragraph it mentions the
8 occurrence on September 29th. Do you recall that day?

9 A. I do.

10 Q. Okay. Take us through what happened that day.

11 A. I received a text saying like, hey, this is Sam. I was
12 basically wondering if you could come in at like 12:00, 12 30.
13 It was -- it was something along those lines of like, hey, this
14 is Sam. Could you come in at 12:00 or 12:30?

15 Q. Okay. Were you scheduled to work that day?

16 A. I was earlier in the day, yeah.

17 Q. Do you recall approximately what time you were scheduled
18 to be there?

19 A. I think like 8:30.

20 Q. Okay. And did this text message come through prior to
21 your scheduled shift?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And then what happened after you received that text
24 message?

25 A. So I got a call at about nine o'clock from Alex Roche, who

1 at that time was the store manager saying, hey, where are you?
2 You're late for your shift. I had said, you know, that I had
3 been asked to come in later and he said, no, we need you right
4 now. I said, okay, I can be right there. So I then drove to
5 the Camp Road store, arrived clocked in, was asked if I was
6 going to take off the pin, was told to clock out and sent home.

7 Q. Between September 6th and receiving this notice of --
8 notice of separation on October 4th, were you -- did any member
9 of management talk to you about being tardy on September 6th?

10 A. No.

11 MR. GOODE: Can I move for admission of GC 66?

12 JUDGE RINGLER: Yes. Yeah. That's admitted.

13 MR. GOODE: Nothing further, Judge.

14 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. Counsel, your choice really.
15 If you want to cross him now, that's fine. If you want to
16 cross him in the morning at nine o'clock, that's fine too.

17 MR. BALSAM: I think in the morning. I just feel
18 like we've been here about --

19 JUDGE RINGLER: It's been a long day. I -- I agree.

20 MR. BALSAM: I think it's going to take longer than
21 30 minutes and I don't want --

22 JUDGE RINGLER: Yeah. No, I don't care so much about
23 that, but it's kind of, you know, pinning it on you at the end
24 of the day and support witness. So okay. So we will -- can
25 you come back tomorrow at nine o'clock?

1 THE WITNESS: Of course.

2 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. We will see you tomorrow then
3 at nine o'clock.

4 THE WITNESS: Great.

5 JUDGE RINGLER: And we'll start with cross. But
6 counsel, you've got to give him the Jencks statements if you
7 would.

8 MR. GOODE: Okay.

9 MR. BALSAM: Thank you, Your Honor.

10 MR. GOODE: I have an email. One email, one
11 affidavit, that's a page. Second affidavit, that's 10 pages.
12 Third affidavit, that is four pages of substance. Another
13 affidavit that's three pages. And I also have the Buffalo 1
14 affidavit that is 30 pages.

15 JUDGE RINGLER: All right. So the affidavits are
16 being handed over. I don't have to give you any time. Take as
17 long as you want.

18 MR. GOODE: Oh, I will, Judge. Thank you.

19 JUDGE RINGLER: Okay. We'll see everyone tomorrow.
20 Go off the record until that time. So in the interim, please
21 don't discuss your testimony with anyone tonight through
22 tomorrow morning, okay?

23 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

24 JUDGE RINGLER: Thank you.

25

1 (Whereupon, at 5:25 p.m., the hearing in the above-entitled
2 matter was adjourned to resume on Friday, 21st April, 2023 at
3 9:00 a.m.)
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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), Region 3, in the matter of STARBUCKS CORPORATION, Case No. 03-CA-295810, at the National Labor Relations Board, on Thursday, April 20th, 2023, was held according to the record, and that this is the original, complete, and true and accurate transcript that has been compared to the recording from the hearing, that the exhibits are complete and no exhibits received in evidence or in the rejected file are missing.

Rhett Baker

Rhett Baker

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